

JPRS 84756

16 November 1983

Latin America Report

No. 2764



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

16 November 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2764

CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Briefs

- Binational Hydroelectric Project Signed 1

JAMAICA

- Quality of Gasoline Becomes an Issue; SEAGA Orders Probe
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 8, 13 Oct 83)..... 2

Retailer Reaction to Complaints
Investigative Committee

Briefs

- Oil Bill 5

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Report on Flow of Illegal Currency Among Caribbean
States
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 14 Oct 83)..... 6

- Caribbean, U.S. Businessmen Exchange Ideas on Growth
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 14 Oct 83)..... 10

- Guyana Improves Trade Prospects With Trinidad, Brazil
(SUNDAY CHRONICLE, 18 Sep 83; SUNDAY EXPRESS,
18 Sep 83)..... 11

Talks With Trinidad on Lumber
Negotiations With Brazil

Barbados Trade Mission Gets \$614,000 in Bahamian Orders (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 30 Sep 83).....	13
Caribbean Task Force To Study Agro-Industrial Sector (SUNDAY ADVOCATE, 9 Oct 83).....	14
Briefs	
Food Aid in Caribbean	15
St Vincent-Argentina Relations	15
ARGENTINA	
Released Prisoners on Psychological Abuse, Torture (BUENOS AIRES HERALD, 20 Oct 83).....	16
Briefs	
Diplomatic Relations Established	18
Compulsory Military Service Exemptions	18
Nation's First Built Submarine	18
Price Index	18
BAHAMAS	
Foreign Minister Raps 'Aggressive' U.S. Banking Actions (Anthony Forbes; THE TRIBUNE, 19 Sep 83).....	19
Political Forces Trade Accusations Over Drug Charges (THE TRIBUNE, 17, 19, 27 Sep 83; THE HERALD, 23 Sep 83).....	21
Opposition Leader's Views, by Anthony Forbes	
Hanna Attack on FNM	
FNM on U.S. Motives, by Anthony Forbes	
PLP Defense	
Talk of 'Repercussions' With U.S., by Anthony Forbes	
Fires at Schools Appear To Be Deliberately Set (Marcia Bethell; THE TRIBUNE, 16 Sep 83).....	29
Bahamians Replace British Officers in Defense Force (Athena Damianos; THE TRIBUNE, 29 Sep 83).....	30
BARBADOS	
Adams, in Canada, Extols Development of Trade (SUNDAY ADVOCATE, 2 Oct 83).....	31

Manufacturers Seek Government Action on Trinidad Licensing (SUNDAY ADVOCATE, 9 Oct 83, SUNDAY SUN, 9 Oct 83).....	32
Concern Over Chambers Speech Call for Action	
Opposition Hits Adams on CARICOM, World Bank Issues (THE NATION, 4 Oct 83).....	34
Slap at Trip to Trinidad Misuse of Indices	
New Permanent Secretary Named in Trade Ministry (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 7 Oct 83).....	36
New Company To Manufacture TV's, Other Electronic Products (SUNDAY ADVOCATE, 2 Oct 83).....	37
Arson Destroys High Court Offices, Legal Documents (Arthur Gay; THE NATION, 4 Oct 83).....	39
DOMINICA	
Briefs	
Opposition Leader Talks	40
GUYANA	
Annual TUC Conference Opens; Divisions Reported (Various sources, various dates).....	41
Slippage of PNC Control	
PPP Open Letter	
Assessment of Union Problems, by Edwin Ali	
Green's Opening Address	
Boycott by Unions	
Clash of Interests	
Farming in Spotlight as Controversy Over Food Continues (Various sources, various dates).....	50
Beri-Beri, Malnutrition Charges	
Youth Movement Resolution	
Minister's Remarks	
Blackeye Pea Crop	
Flour Stocks	
Slumping Sugar Output	
Stress on Urban Agriculture	

Rice Board Official Dundas Defends Grading System (SUNDAY CHRONICLE, 18 Sep 83).....	56
Rice Exporting To Be Aided by New Wharf Facilities (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 24 Sep 83).....	57
Personnel Changes Announced for Sugar Industry (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 22 Sep 83).....	58
Reid: Economic Crisis Provides Chance To Push Development (SUNDAY CHRONICLE, 2 Oct 83).....	59
GNS Anniversary: Instrument for Developing Resources (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 1 Oct 83).....	61
GNS To Launch Officer Cadet Program to Woo Skilled (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 28 Sep 83).....	62
Plan To Revamp Bauxite Industry; Job Situation Noted (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 24 Sep 83; SUNDAY CHRONICLE, 2 Oct 83).....	63
Job Opportunities for Retrenched Reorganization Master Plan	
PNC Eyes Organizational Changes, Personnel Goals (NEW NATION, 25 Sep 83).....	66
Leader-Group Ties Constitutional Amendments Membership Rules	
PNC Policies Defended Against PPP Criticism (NEW NATION, 25 Sep 83).....	68
PPP Schedules Seminars To Boost Propaganda Work (MIRROR, 2 Oct 83).....	69
Crime Continues To Cause Concern, Criticism of Government (CATHOLIC STANDARD, 18 Sep 83; MIRROR, 18 Sep 83).....	70
Crime Chief's Remarks CATHOLIC STANDARD Comments, Editorial PPP Position	
Fuel Smuggling to Suriname Brings Countermeasures (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 15 Sep 83; SUNDAY CHRONICLE, 18 Sep 83).....	75
Report From Berbice Regulation of Sales	

Briefs	
Japanese Aid Grant	77
Militia Uniform Change	77
Union Suit Against Executive	77
Newsprint Issue	78

JAMAICA

Carl Stone Comments on Steps To End Political Violence (Carl Stone; THE DAILY GLEANER, 10 Oct 83).....	79
Manufacturers Report Only 49 Percent Use of Capacity (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 3 Oct 83).....	81
Government Review of Import Quotas Hit; Vaz Responds (THE DAILY GLEANER, 13, 14 Oct 83).....	83
JMA Criticism Vaz Warning to Importers	
Exporters Charge Government Does Not Lend Encouragement (THE DAILY GLEANER, 14 Oct 83).....	86
PNP's Patterson Criticizes Budget, Economic Policies (THE DAILY GLEANER, 13 Oct 83).....	87
'Special Deal' Denied in Alcoa Decision on Bauxite (THE DAILY GLEANER, 11 Oct 83).....	90
Steps Taken To Bolster Future of Sugar Industry (THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 9 Oct 83; THE DAILY GLEANER, 10, 11 Oct 83).....	92
Government Funds PNP Statement Reduced Capacity Economy Measures	
Seaga Launches Land Reform, Development Program (THE DAILY GLEANER, 14 Oct 83).....	97
National Water Commission in 'Critical' Financial Bind (THE DAILY GLEANER, 10 Oct 83).....	100
Sabotage Suspected in Kingston Electrical Power Outage (THE DAILY GLEANER, 14 Oct 83).....	102
Second Quarter Trade Deficit Reported (THE DAILY GLEANER, 10 Oct 83).....	104

MEXICO

President Discusses Economic Situation, C. America (EL DIA, 6 Oct 83).....	105
Protesting Chiapas Peasants End Capital Demonstration (AFP, 20 Oct 83).....	109

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Dutch Proposal for Development Aid Given (NRC HANDELSBLAD, 7 Oct 83).....	110
--	-----

PANAMA

'Successful' Protest Against 'Revolutionary Process' (Jose Quintero, et al.; LA PRENSA, 26 Oct 83).....	112
Peasants Protest Plans To Indemnify U.S. Firms (LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, 21 Oct 83).....	114
Opposition Parties Demand Purge of Electoral Tribunal (LA PRENSA, 21 Oct 83).....	115
Peasants Charge Marxist Influence Among Indians (Vladimir Sandoval; LA PRENSA, 20 Oct 83).....	116
Briefs	
U.S., Spanish Priests Arrested	117
National Assembly Officials Reelected	117
New Immigration Director	117
Workers Revolutionary Party Registered	117
Free Export of Cattle Authorized	118
Bilateral Agreement With Swiss	118
Commercial Agreement With UK	118

ST LUCIA

Opposition, Cenac Object To Decision on Civil Servants (THE DAILY GLEANER, 13 Oct 83).....	119
---	-----

BRIEFS

BINATIONAL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT SIGNED--The contract for the Yacyreta Binational Hydroelectric Project was signed last night. Among those who signed the contract, valued at 1.42 billion (thousand million) dollars, were Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari and his Paraguayan counterpart Carlos Zaldivar. The long-awaited signature was threatened at the last minute when the National Institute of Reinsurance (INDER) refused to put up the necessary insurance without a deposit of 52 million dollars, for which no provision had previously been made. Meanwhile, the Mendoza-based Metanac Company is to replace a U.S.-Argentine consortium in the construction of four turbines for the Yacgreta Project, reliable sources said. Twelve turbines are to be constructed by the U.S. firm Allis-Chalmers, four turbines by the AFNE-Allis group, which comprises Allis-Chalmers and the naval shipyard AFNE, and four by Metanac. However, the AFNE-Allis consortium has not complied in time with Argentine conditions insisting on company headquarters in Argentina so that Metanac is now to be entrusted with eight turbines while Allis-Chalmers retains the remainder, according to the sources. The only other alternative would have been for AFNE to build the four turbines alone, but this is reportedly a technical impossibility.

CSO: 3300/1

QUALITY OF GASOLINE BECOMES AN ISSUE; SEAGA ORDERS PROBE

Retailer Reaction to Complaints

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Oct 83 p 23

[Text] Petrojam Limited and the Jamaica Gasolene Retailers' Association (JGRA) Thursday denied responsibility for contamination of petrol being sold to consumers.

Meanwhile, reacting to widespread reports from motorists complaining of the poor quality of gasolene on the market which is said to be damaging their motor vehicles, the Bureau of Standards has been conducting investigations to determine the root of the adulteration.

A spokesman for the Bureau, however said that the equipment available to the agency for carrying out the investigations was limited.

In a release, Petrojam's Managing Director, Mr. H. J. Fenton, said it was "impossible for such contamination to take place within Petrojam's refinery operations" and accordingly, stringent measures were under consideration to ensure that contamination did not take place elsewhere.

Recent tests by Petrojam refinery of gasolene samples from marketing companies taken from their service stations, in some cases had revealed a significant degree of contamination with kerosene or gas oil, which would significantly affect the engine performance from such contaminated gasolene, Mr. Fenton said.

Giving a background to support his claims, he said that the Petrojam refinery was shut down on September 12, for its annual maintenance and reformer catalyst regeneration.

"The refinery had been able to build up stocks of products to last during the anticipated shut down time of about 18 days with the exception of motor gasolene, for which there were stocks for one week's supply. These motor gasolene stocks were consumed by September 18."

"The refinery had therefore arranged an importation of motor gasolene, and this was received on September 18. Supplies of gasolene to the trade has been from this imported material from September 19."

"The imported material was different from what is normally produced in the Petrojam refinery in that it was dyed a richer red colour and had a slightly more pronounced typical gasoline smell. The research octane number for premium gasoline produced and used in Jamaica is 95."

"As has occasionally occurred over the life of the refinery, due to imbalances in the crude slate or delays at the port of loading, product shortages, primarily gasoline, are possible for a restricted period. In such circumstances the octane number for premium gasoline may be marginally reduced from the standard 95 to 93.5, which has the effect of increasing the quantity of gasoline produced, thereby averting any possible supply shortage. This marginal reduction in the octane number has no noticeable effect on engine performance," Mr. Fenton said.

Whenever such octane adjustment was made, the marketing companies were informed and their consent obtained, he said.

Mr. Fenton said that in many countries the standard premium gasoline octane was 93.0 and that gasoline was being imported and would be on the market for two days with an octane number of 93.8.

In the absence of contamination as described, he stated, such marginally reduced octane rating would "have no discernible effect on engine performance." However, the effects of contamination were increased with reduced octane rating.

Mr. Fenton said that a shipment of crude oil from Venezuela arrived at the refinery October 4, and the refinery was expected to resume production of gasoline from its facilities this weekend with the traditional octane rating of 95.

But the JGRA said in a statement Thursday night that if the octane rating of gasoline fell below the required standard, then it would affect the performance of motor car engines.

"The Association is insisting that since other parties seem to have knowledge of illegal practices like contamination of the product in retail trade, these parties should immediately bring the matter to the attention of the Bureau of Standards, the Ministry of Mining and Energy and the appropriate oil marketing company so that action may be taken to protect the consumer."

The Association denied evidence of contamination as implied in statements made elsewhere. It said that investigations would no doubt reveal the true position and help to protect the dealer who was being maligned through no fault of his own.

A spokesman at the Bureau of Standards said the agency was collecting samples and these were being tested. The Bureau, under normal circumstances, would test for two causes of the contamination; reduction in the octane rating and adulteration.

However, the spokesman said that the Bureau could only test for adulteration as it did not have the equipment to check the octane rating. An equipment had been imported but this was sent to the Petrojam's refinery and the Bureau did not get one because it was too expensive, the spokesman said.

Shell Company's General Manager, Mr. Howard Hamilton, said that something was wrong with the gasoline that was being imported and that the contamination did not stem from local sources. He noted that any lowering of the octane level would cause contamination.

Investigative Committee

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister and Minister of Mining and Energy, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, yesterday appointed a committee to investigate and report on the recent allegations by motorists that gasoline sold to them at petroleum filling stations was of poor quality.

A release from the Office of the Prime Minister yesterday said the committee is comprised of Dr. Arnel Henry, Director, Bureau of Standards, as Chairman; Dr. Pat Hamilton, Executive Director, Scientific Research Council; Dr. Henry Lowe, Director of Energy, Minister of Mining and Energy; Mr. Ashton Wright, Attorney-at-Law and Mr. Al Hall, President, Jamaica Automobile Association.

The terms of reference are to determine whether the sub-standard gasoline was sold to service stations and to what extent;

to determine what quality standards are being followed by the petroleum trade and what agencies are responsible to monitor conformity of such standards;

to determine what procedures exist to all points in the gasoline distribution chain for detecting and verifying various in standard specifications of the product;

to determine whether systems exist to prevent the distribution of sub-standard gasoline;

to make recommendations on the basis of its findings to the Hon. Prime Minister as to

- (1) independent checks and verifications of petroleum product quality; and
- (11) system to prevent accidental or deliberate contamination of petroleum product.

The Prime Minister has advised the chairman that in view of public concern in this matter it would be desirable that the committee's deliberations proceed as speedily as possible.

BRIEFS

OIL BILL--Kingston, Sun. (Cana)--Jamaica's domestic oil bill of \$317.7 million (US) annually for the non-bauxite sector will go up by a further \$3.5 million (about TT \$7 million) a year, as a result of the increase in the price of Venezuelan heavy crude oil, official sources here said. Venezuela, one of the two most important suppliers of oil to Jamaica--the other is Mexico--announced last week that it was increasing the price of its heavy and extra heavy crude by \$1 U.S. and \$1.25 (US) per barrel, respectively. The announcement said the price of medium and light oil, which is tied to the OPEC benchmark of \$29 (US) per barrel would not be affected. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Oct 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/100

REPORT ON FLOW OF ILLEGAL CURRENCY AMONG CARIBBEAN STATES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Oct 83 pp 8, 12

[Text] St. Georges, Grenada--Millions of dollars are flowing in illegal streams between some islands of the Eastern Caribbean. Figures published by the East Caribbean Authority (ECCA) show that little respect is shown for currency regulations. Some factors in this situation may be relatively innocent but the possible involvement of smuggling and the drug trade cannot be ignored.

The money supply of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) comes from ECCA. These States, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada all use the East Caribbean (EC) dollar and records are kept of the separate values of notes and coin issued to the Commercial Banks in each island. Those records disclose an interesting fact.

Year after year, there is the same value relationship between the notes and coin issued by ECCA to the islands as a group. For every \$95.00 in notes drawn by the islands, they take \$5.00 in coin. This relationship does not work out in round figures, but it's very close.

In 1973, for instance, the relationship of notes to coin was as close to 95.00/5.00 as 95.02/4.98. In 1980 it was 95.78/4.22, last year it was 95.06/4.94 and, each year, it has been as close as this. Statistics over the last 10 years show that, together, the Commercial Banks in the OECS consistently have taken almost exactly 95 per cent of the currency in notes and 5 per cent in coin.

"One gets to learn how much coin our tellers must have so people can make change," one Banker explained, "and we estimate this on the value of notes in circulation."

But, this is where the problem is. The estimated value of notes in circulation in each island does not agree with the value of notes issued to each island by ECCA. The figures show an unexplained behind-the-scenes island-to-island flow of currency, and some important questions remain unanswered.

Paper Money

Take the situation in Grenada in 1979, for example. In that year, the Commercial Banks took in supplies of both coin and notes from ECCA and it can be assumed safely that the coin stayed in Grenada. Nobody packs up coin and takes it to another island. It's too bulky.

The same is not true of notes, however. Large values of paper money can be transported easily and it can be shown that an unexplained large value of notes left Grenada that year.

Banking practices vary little from island to island and, undoubtedly, the Commercial Banks in Grenada maintain the approximate average of OECS. That is, they carry about \$95.00 in notes to every \$5.00 in coin. Those Banks took \$824,000 in coin from ECCA during 1979 and, at the 95.00/5.00 notes/coin relationship, it would be expected that Grenada would have drawn some 16 million dollars in notes.

In fact, Grenada drew a great deal more than that. The Commercial Banks took just over 32 million dollars in notes from ECCA. This means that, in addition to the 16 million dollars in notes to match the \$824,000 in coin, Grenada drew another 16 million dollars for which the Commercial Banks did not have to maintain coin for change. That money was not in circulation in the island. It disappeared.

Grenada's Loss

On the same basis, Grenada lost another 16 million in 1980, 19 million in 1981 and, last year, the figure peaked to 22 million.

Using the same calculation, but on the other side of the coin, Antigua and St. Kitts show the opposite trend. Last year, 11 million unexplained dollars poured into Antigua and nearly 15 million into St. Kitts. Nearly two million dollars each flowed into Dominica and Montserrat from sources other than ECCA, while St. Lucia and St. Vincent lost 6 million and 1.5 million respectively.

This pattern has been consistent in its growth for the last 10 years at least, and, of all the islands, the outflow of unexplained dollars has been greatest in Grenada. Between 1973 and 1974, the annual figure rose from 1.9 million to 4.3 million. By 1979, it was 12.3 million and, over the period 1980 to 1982, nearly 60 million dollars have disappeared from the island.

St. Kitts, at the other end of the scale, had an unexplained inflow of as much as 3.4 million in 1973 and, by 1979, that figure had risen to 9.9 million. Over the 1980 to 1982 period, St. Kitts had nearly 40 million dollars in circulation which were not issued by ECCA to the Commercial Banks in that island. In fact, the situation there is so strange that, last year, the Commercial Banks drew from ECCA more than twice as much value in coin as they did in notes.

Missing Dollars

Several explanations are possible for these curious currency flows, these "lost and found" dollars. In the case of Grenada, it has been pointed out that, for a long time, the Grenada Grenadines have been a smuggling centre. Boats from these islands regularly collect cargoes of cigarettes and liquor from the duty-free ports of the Dutch islands lying north of the Leewards.

It is said that these cargoes are paid for in EC dollars and, the Dutch islands being conveniently close to St. Kitts, these dollars are taken in suit-cases and lodged with the Commercial Banks in that island.

There are, of course, no statistics on the smuggling trade, but the millions of missing dollars shown up in the ECCA statistics seem high to be explained by this. And, there is another question. EC dollars can be taken in suit-cases from the Dutch islands to St. Kitts, but that cannot be the end of the story. A fat bank account in St. Kitts is not much use to the people in the Dutch islands who sell to the smugglers. They want their money at home. How do they manage this? How are the EC dollars converted into foreign currency to be taken back to the Dutch islands?

Then, there are the questions raised by the situations in Antigua and St. Lucia. In the early 70s, Antigua was receiving between 2 and 3 million unexplained dollars annually. By 1979, the figure crossed the 8 million dollar mark and, between 1980 and 1982, it fluctuated between 11 and 12 million per year.

Are these extra dollars in Antigua taken there by holidaying OECS West Indians who have ignored currency regulations in getting their spending money? Is Antigua a part of the St. Kitts/Dutch islands picture, or is there yet another reason?

In St. Lucia, there is the opposite trend to be explained. While not on the same scale as Grenada, this island consistently loses millions of dollars annually. Early in the 70s, it was less than 2 million every year but the drain-away of dollars issued by ECCA now stands at 6 million a year.

In Dominica, the pattern of dollar flow has a curious link with the weather. The statistics show that, in the 70s, there was an inflow of between 1 and 2 million dollars annually, but there was a dramatic reversal in 1979. In that year, Dominica lost \$350,000.

Whether or not it is coincidence, 1979 was the year hurricane "David" struck Dominica and this strange connection with disaster is repeated in 1980. This time, it was hurricane "Allen" and, again, there was no inflow of dollars but a loss of \$38,000.

Underground Export Trade?

What can this mean? Is there an underground export trade in Dominica which is affected by adverse weather? Is that export trade marijuana? Did the

hurricanes damage secret plantations and so cut off the flow of incoming purchasing dollars?

These are questions to be answered because, either by coincidence or the fact that the supposed marijuana plantations were again producing, the inflow of dollars started again in 1981 and, last year, it was again approaching the 2 million dollar mark.

Official circles have begun to take note of these unexplained currency flows, concern is being expressed privately, and ECCA has taken a step which will enable positive monitoring of where the dollars go.

From July 1st this year, all notes issued to Commercial Banks in Grenada have been marked with a (G), St. Vincent's notes are identified with a (V), Montserrat's with an (M) and so on. Soon it will be possible to trace the paths. It will be known whether Grenada's notes are reaching St. Kitts and Antigua via the "suit-case route" from the Dutch islands. It will be known where St. Lucia's money is going and whose money is in circulation in Dominica.

No doubt, this is just the first step in an overall tightening up plan in preparation for the new role of EECA which became the OECS Central Bank on October 1.

Performing in that role, serving seven sovereign States spread over several hundred miles of sea, will be no easy task. Currency control will be one of the problems and the "lost and found" dollars must be sorted out before there can be any solution.

CSO: 3298/101

CARIBBEAN, U.S. BUSINESSMEN EXCHANGE IDEAS ON GROWTH

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Oct 83 p 12

[Text] Business and community leaders from across the Caribbean pooled ideas at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston, on Monday and Tuesday to formulate the aims and objectives of a new series of Caribbean-United States conferences geared to develop regional development programmes and apprise U.S. policy makers of Caribbean social and economic trends.

This series of conferences, which was inaugurated on Monday, was sponsored by the Caribbean Resources Development Foundation, which conducted biogas development and agricultural research surveys in the late 1970s.

Mr. Louis Byles of the Royal Bank Trust Company (Jamaica) Ltd. said that the series would be directed to find solutions to the "tremendous problems--people problems, relating to issues such as the will to work, the will to sacrifice, put your country before your own interests"--which faced the region.

The task of human resource development was deliberated by the group attending the series' "plenary session." Participating were industry leaders such as Mrs. Avis Henriques, former President of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica, and Mr. Oliver Clarke, Managing Director of the Gleaner Co. Ltd., Americans such as Mr. Loren Lawrence, former United States Ambassador to Jamaica and Director of Caribbean Central American Action, and Mrs. Nancy Truitt, Programme Director of the Fund for Multinational Management Education.

Educators such as Sir Philip Sherlock, Executive Vice President of the Caribbean Resources Development Foundation, and Dr. King Stanford, President Emeritus of the University of Miami, were also present at the Pegasus to launch this conference series.

Dr. Stanford welcomed the conference series, emphasizing the need for practical action for Caribbean development and more effective communication between Caribbean leaders and American policy makers.

This point was underscored by Dr. Henrique Jose Lois of the Industrias Asociada group of the Dominican Republic, who said that "Caribbean people must make decision makers in the United States aware of the problems we face in trying to improve our people's lives."

GUYANA IMPROVES TRADE PROSPECTS WITH TRINIDAD, BRAZIL

Talks With Trinidad on Lumber

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 18 Sep 83 p 9

[Text] Outgoing Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner Eustace Seignoret, who ends his tour of duty in Georgetown this week, has said negotiations are currently under way for more of Guyana's lumber to be exported to the twin-island republic.

Outlining ways in which he feels economic co-operation between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago could be further strengthened, Mr Seignoret said in an interview Tuesday his country was examining the possibility of importing cut lumber.

Negotiations on this matter, he said, were at a fairly early stage, with specifications now being decided and needs determined.

Another growth area for co-operation according to Mr Seignoret, is the sale of prefabricated houses.

And on agricultural trade, the top diplomat said it was very likely that Guyana will be supplying more agricultural produce to Trinidad and Tobago in the near future.

In addition to rice, Trinidad and Tobago also bought pineapples and limes from Guyana this year.

Mr Seignoret, who took up this posting in December last year after serving as his country's High Commissioner in London, will be leaving Guyana Saturday for Port-of-Spain where he is expected to take up another assignment. He has also been Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador to the United Nations and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Negotiations With Brazil

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 18 Sep 83 p 17

[Text] Georgetown, Saturday (CANA)--Brazilian Consul in Guyana Sergio Couri has said here that there are very good opportunities for the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

"Guyanese bauxite, Guyanese gold and other minerals can be used perhaps in Guyana's trade with Brazil for the shortage of foreign currency which exists here and also in Brazil can be resolved," he said.

"I would say that on the Brazilian side, we could also make payments in cruzeiros to Guyanese companies and those payments could easily be reverted to foreign currency for trade with Brazil," Couri said.

"What I am trying to say is that there can be a sort of barter to make up for the current scarcity of foreign currency both in Guyana and in Brazil," the senior Brazilian diplomat told CANA.

He said governmental organisations in Brazil were already working towards the implementation of a bilateral agreement signed during the visit by Guyana's President to Brasilia and the Brazilian Minister of External Affairs to Guyana.

CSO: 3298/101

BARBADOS TRADE MISSION GETS \$614,000 IN BAHAMIAN ORDERS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 30 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

A Barbados trade mission to the Bahamas has returned home with BDS\$614 000 in orders and plans to establish joint ventures with that country.

There are also plans to mount another major exhibition in that country in May or June next year.

Mr. Vanburn Gaskin, one of the businessmen who went on the mission, told a Press conference yesterday that Barbados was the first country to take up an invitation issued to Caricom countries by the Prime Minister of the Bahamas to visit that country. The Bahamas became a member of CARICOM on July 4 this year.

He said that careful research before the trip had disclosed that of BDS\$1.2 billion in goods that the Bahamas imported each year, only BDS\$1.2 million in goods

came from Barbados.

He described the four-day mission as highly successful and said that the businessmen had been able to confirm orders for a cross-section of products displayed including garments, food, water heaters and furniture.

Already, he said, two containers had been loaded and would be on their way to the Bahamas on the next available date.

Mr. John Watson of the Small Business Association said that the delegation would be asking Government to have discussions with the Bahamian Government to find out if local businessmen could have access to the Bahamian market at a lower rate of duty.

At the moment, the rate of duty is 34 per cent. The local businessmen would

like a preferential rate of 22½ per cent.

They also intend to ask Government to look at possible concessions for local companies which establish joint ventures with the Bahamas.

Since the Bahamas has nothing to offer Barbados in terms of exports, Barbados has offered the transferral of technology to help develop industry there. Mr. Watson described this move as a stepping-stone to the establishment of joint ventures.

In respect of the transportation, Mr. Watson said that a representative of Caricargo was among the delegation to the Bahamas and that that air carrier would be looking into the possibility of establishing some link with Bahamas Air so that the goods

could reach the Bahamas either directly or through Miami.

Meanwhile, two businessmen, Mr. David "Joey" Harper who co-ordinated the first trip and Mr. John Hampden of Hampden's Furniture, leave Barbados for Nassau today to follow up discussions. Mr. James Husbands of Solar Dynamics is expected to leave later this week.

CSO: 3298/102

CARIBBEAN TASK FORCE TO STUDY AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 9 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

A regional task force has been set up to deal with the problems of the agro-industrial sub-sector.

The body, headed by Barbadian manufacturer Mr. Peter Miller, has come out of a regional conference on problems and opportunities within the food processing industry sponsored by the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce and the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association.

The conference was held in Jamaica last month.

Following its first meeting at the CAIC's headquarters here yesterday, members of the media were told why it had become necessary for the setting up of such a body.

The Task force has been mandated to undertake an urgent review of the trade and institutional barriers affecting agro-industrial development in Caricom; the difficulties encountered in satisfying the requirements of the Caricom Rules of Origin; the availability of primary products in Caricom for the food processing industry and the harmonisation of food standards in the region, among other matters.

Mr. Miller said the licensing system

which obtains in the region will be looked at as a whole, pointing out that it extended beyond Trinidad, which early this year had imposed a licensing system that resulted in what came to be called "a Caricom trade war".

Executive director of the CAIC Mr. Pat Thompson said the private sector would be expected to make an input into the Common Market Council of Ministers' meeting in Guyana in January.

He said the Task Force would be making specific recommendations to put to the Council.

The Task Force is required to report to member Governments through the CAIC by December 15.

Its other members are Mr. P.A. Carto (Guyana), Mr. Claude Clarke and Mr. Selwyn Campbell (Jamaica), Mr. Parry Bellot (Dominica), Mr. Deen Sideone (Trinidad), Mr. Grantley Culbard (Caribbean Congress of Labour).

The Organisation of East Caribbean States and Belize are also to be represented on the Task Force.

Adviser to the body is Dr. Reggie Clarke, a food processor based in Barbados.

CSO: 3298/102

BRIEFS

FOOD AID IN CARIBBEAN--Bridgetown, Barbados, Oct 7, CANA--St. Lucia and St. Vincent are to receive over 2.7 million dollars (US) in assistance from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) starting this year, the agency announced here. WFP deputy representative Ihsan Khan told CANA that St. Lucia would receive some 1,097,600 dollars (US) for its multi-purpose projects for educational development. The money will go towards buying wheat flour, dry skim milk, vegetable oil, pulses, sugar, fish and meat and will benefit school students as well as children at day care, youth development and training centres. The WFP official said that since February 1979, St. Lucia has been receiving assistance from WFP for supplementary feeding of vulnerable groups. This assistance totalled 1.5 million dollars (US). Khan said that distribution of food under this new project is expected to commence later this year. The WFP official said that St. Vincent and the Grenadines will receive some 1,612,400 dollars (US) for its supplementary feeding of vulnerable groups and in primary schools feeding schemes. The programme, which is expected to last for three years, covers commodities such as wheat flour, dry skim milk, vegetable oil, and sugar. The beneficiaries of this project are children at risk and suffering from first, second and third degree malnutrition, pregnant and nursing mothers, hospital patients and school children. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Oct 83 p 1]

ST VINCENT-ARGENTINA RELATIONS--Kingstown, St. Vincent, Saturday (AP)--The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has established diplomatic relations with Argentina at the ambassadorial level, according to a joint communique issued in Kingstown by the foreign affairs ministers of both nations. The communique by Hudson Tannis of St. Vincent and Juan Aguirre Lanarri of Argentina said both countries will appoint non-resident ambassadors at some unspecified future time, the text alluded to a mutual desire to promote understanding and strengthen existing bonds of friendship. Since gaining independence from Britain four years ago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has established diplomatic relations with 23 countries. Permanent missions in Kingstown are maintained by Britain, Venezuela and Taiwan, while France and the Netherlands have consular representation. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 9 Oct 83 p 1]

RELEASED PRISONERS ON PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, TORTURE

PY210053 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Oct 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] Political prisoners who were released yesterday after having spent long years in prison at the disposal of the Executive Branch denounced that they had been "tortured and abused" during their detention.

During a press conference at the office of the organization grouping relatives of people detained for political reasons, where many of them saw their friends, spouses and young children for the first time in many years, the former prisoners charged that "the prison policy was aimed at destroying our convictions" by means of "perfectly programmed measures" the intensity of which "was measured in terms of our physical endurance."

Manuel Maria Llorens, who was detained on 29 May 1974 and released on Tuesday night, said that "any prison guard could slap us, and knew whether he could continue torturing us from watching our skin reaction."

Martin Jaime, another of the newly released prisoners, said he had been subject to "permanent physical and psychic abuse," and that the prison authorities threatened to put up his son, born four months after his arrest in May 1974, for "adoption by some unknown family." Jaime also denounced that the prison authorities forbade him to seek medical attention for his asthma condition, and "even to take medicines." He said that part of the plan to torture the prisoners had been to imprison them at places where the weather conditions would be harmful to their health. "Many prisoners were sent to Rawson to subject them to the cold...and I, because of my asthma, was left in the humid weather of Buenos Aires."

Many physical afflictions reported by prisoners "were turned into psychic problems and they called us crazy, and cowards," said Gustavo Moroni. "These situations many times ended with the death of those who requested (medical) attention."

"I was tortured every morning," said Blanca Decher, who was arrested in 1975 and taken to the Olmos jail after spending some time in several clandestine detention centres. "We (women) were also kept in permanent tension, (they) punished us physically and went out of their way to upset our mental balance."

Mrs Decher reported that she was "subject to electric prod sessions, immersion to the threshold of asphyxiation, we were continually raped. In my case, every time they finished torturing me, they said they would return in the afternoon because I'm Jewish, and they often did."

The prisoners said the prison guards "permanently" provoked them, hoping that "we would respond to those aggressions to justify the extreme measures they often apply."

Eduardo Samojedny, who was released from the Rawson jail on Tuesday, said a group of prisoners had confirmed that a team of psychologists had worked on a plan to "depersonalize" them, and that in many cases the inmates were driven to suicide by "psychological action" and torture.

Meanwhile, Lisandro Raul Cubas, a Peronist youth militant who was abducted by unidentified men in 1976 and taken to a clandestine detention centre at the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA), said in a recent interview with the weekly SIETE DIAS that during his detention he knew of "doctors who said how long the (torture) sessions had to last so that the prisoner wouldn't die," or who "operated on the wounded missing people so that the information could be drawn out of them."

Cubas, who has been exiled in New York since 1979, said prisoners at ESMA had been physically and psychologically tortured. He said prisoners were kept permanently hooded, with hands cuffed behind their back, and were subject to loud music "24 hours a day," a treatment which he said was aimed at producing "despair, anguish, and insanity."

"They (the torturers) didn't spare any means" to "recuperate" the prisoners, added Cubas, trying to make them "put aside our ideals and values. They spoke of returning us to the values of 'Western and Christian' civilization." He said that of the "estimated 3,500 missing people who went through ESMA," only 15 had been "recuperated."

According to Cubas, there were "between 10 and 15" torturers at ESMA, all of whom were officers belonging to a special task force's intelligence section.

He said the attitude of the physicians who oversaw the torture was "merely professional," and that "there was even a psychiatrist they sent us...in 1978, of whom we were extremely afraid, because we thought his duty was to know what we were thinking" at any given moment.

Cubas stated that in Christmas of 1976, a captain at ESMA said the decision had been made to allow the prisoners, "believers and non-believers alike" to "attend a mass, confess and receive the Holy Communion so that we would have peace of mind, and think that life in peace was possible. Meanwhile we could hear the screams of those who were being tortured, and the noise of the hooded prisoners going to the bathroom dragging their chains."

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED--Argentina has established diplomatic relations with St Vincent and the Grenadines. The agreement was signed in New York between Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari and St Vincent Foreign Minister Hudson K. Tannis. [Summary] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Oct 83 p 3 PY]

COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE EXEMPTIONS--According to Decree No 2,648 which implements Law No 22,944, the following people can request exemption from compulsory military service: the brothers of soldiers of the three services who died during the Malvinas war; married university students with children; Catholic and non-Catholic seminarians; fathers of legally recognized illegitimate children; and single sons [with] dependent mothers and/or fathers. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 13 Oct 83 PY]

NATION'S FIRST BUILT SUBMARINE--A ceremony during which a keel is to be fitted on the first submarine built in our country will take place at 1600 on 14 October. The ceremony will be presided over by Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Ruben Oscar Franco and is to take place at the Ministro Manuel Domecq Garcia shipyard in Buenos Aires. This submarine is of the same type as the "Santa Cruz" submarine which was built in the FRG. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Oct 83 PY]

PRICE INDEX--Buenos Aires, 11 October (NA)--The National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) has reported that the consumer price index increased by 21.4 percent during September and by 351.3 percent during the past 12 months. The INDEC also reported that the retail price index increased by 225.1 percent during the first 9 months of the year and by 337.4 percent during the past 12 months. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1213 GMT 11 Oct 83 PY]

CSO: 3348/41

FOREIGN MINISTER RAPS 'AGGRESSIVE' U.S. BANKING ACTIONS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Sep 83 p 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

FOREIGN Minister Paul Adderley charged Thursday night that the Bahamas has become the object of an aggressive pursuit by some agencies of the federal government of the United States in a three-stage attack to destroy the lucrative banking industry.

Repeating himself so that there could be no misunderstanding, Mr Adderley, who is also Attorney General said that aggressive in this context meant "warlike, harmful, damaging, dangerous and destructive pursuit."

"The Bahamas, and I don't say the Progressive Liberal party government or the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, has become the object of aggressive pursuit by some agencies of the Federal government of the United States of America," Mr Adderley said.

He said the words "aggressive pursuit" were taken from the testimony he witnessed on March 15 at a US Senate hearing by the Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department responsible for the Criminal Division.

Mr Adderley told hundreds attending the PLP rally at the Stephen Dillet Primary School that the US official told the Senate hearing: "Where problem bank secrecy jurisdictions fail to reach a reasonable

accommodation between bank secrecy and the requirements of bona fide, reasonable law enforcement interests, other measures will be aggressively pursued."

He said the Bahamas has banking laws which have been attractive to foreign capital and has a better reputation as a banking centre than most big or small countries in the world.

He quoted a February, 1983, edition of Bahamas Dateline, which stated that the Bahamas continues to attract and draw much of the lucrative Euro dollar market, which doubled between 1973 and 1977 to \$614 billion.

Mr Adderley said that in 1973, banks in the Bahamas dealt with \$15 billion worth of Euro currency transactions and by 1978 this was up to \$100 billion with more offshore loans by US banks being recorded in the Bahamas.

He said that Bank of England statistics show that the Bahamas is the biggest source of offshore deposits to United Kingdom banks as well as the major taker of funds from the London market.

He said the total assets held by US banks outside the United States at the end of March, 1983, was \$468 billion, and of that amount, \$144 billion was held in the Bahamas and Cayman Islands.

"Now that's the reason why they are interested in bank secrecy in the Bahamas," said the Foreign Minister. "There is no other reason why. Now these figures have excited the Treasury Department. These figures have excited the Justice Department."

He said the two departments are excited that "there is money being held ... on the books now ... in the Bahamas which maybe evading American income tax and that is a perfectly legitimate exercise and that is not for me to touch."

"Most of it, I am satisfied, most of it, the vast majority of it, almost all of it, is legitimately held by perfectly honest people who have found a way to put their money ... perfect honest ... if it serves their purpose, in banks in the Bahamas," he added.

"There is bound to be a small percentage of that which may be dirty money but we are not going to destroy our banking system for that purpose," Mr Adderley said.

"The assault on the bank of Nova Scotia was a calculated attack conceived to destroy the lucrative banking industry in the Bahamas," he said.

Mr Adderley said he believes it is a well-organized plan to harm the Bahamas in general, Bahamian banks in particular,

which have got too big and too successful for some people.

"Hence we became the object of an aggressive pursuit. Hence the attack on the Bahamas began," he said. "It took three stages and it went through what I see as three stages over the last two years."

The first stage of the plan, Mr Adderley said, was to attack banks and lawyers and they did it successfully in two instances in an action against the Bank of Nova Scotia and an action against a lawyer in the Bahamas.

"We knew that these actions were going on. We knew that the bank of Nova Scotia was being pressured," said Mr Adderley. "We knew why they were being pressured. We knew why the action was being taken against the Bahamian lawyer. It was in the aggressive pursuit of the Bahamas."

He said the Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department's criminal division, cited three examples of aggressive pursuit, the first being against the bank of Nova Scotia, the second against a man who is an officer of a Cayman Island bank and the third against a Bahamian lawyer.

"Two of his three examples of aggressive pursuit against a banking jurisdiction was against the Bahamas," Mr Adderley said. "Hence, the Bahamas, I say, they decided to aggressively pursue."

"That was stage one of their plan. Stage one of their plan did not convince us that we ought to capitulate. It did not convince us that we ought to surrender," said the Foreign Minister.

He said the second stage of the plan involved calculated leaks of information to officials of a Senate Committee investigating bank secrecy, which were calculated to attack banks, lawyers, government officials and to abuse banks in the Bahamas in particular, and government officials in the Bahamas of involvement in drug trafficking.

He termed as "unadulterated nonsense," a statement by the Senate committee that it was told by one US law enforcement authority that "the United States drug problem is the Bahamas."

He said that the report was made in February, 1983, and six months later on September 5, the NBC report quoted an agent in South Florida as saying: "South Florida isn't rid of all of it yet, not as long as we have the Bahamas over there."

He said the committee also said that one agent advised it that a US agency is nearing a stage where it could and would indict high Bahamian officials and that a get tough policy was in order.

Furthermore, a number of US enforcement officials would claim to be in sympathy with these get tough proposals by a Mr Gordon who prepared the report for the Senate Committee on tax haven and banking secrecy.

Mr Adderley said that one of Mr Gordon's recommendations was that nations which fail to conform their procedures to United States requests in tax matters should be dealt with severely.

"We have not conformed our laws to the United States tax requirements. The report says therefore we should be dealt with severely," he said.

He said the Senate Committee advised that the US government agency personnel should avoid accusations of Bahamian criminal complicity which cannot be documented.

Mr Adderley said the Senate committee also advised that US government agency personnel avoid complaints about non-cooperation in the provision of information through existing channels when connecting US agencies are in fact unaware of proper channels or have not sought information through them.

The committee also advised that they should avoid the all too apparent tendency to export the possibility for the United States drug traffic.

He said that stage also failed to bring the Bahamas to its knees and the Bahamas government knew what they were doing and understood the threat.

"The whole affair then takes on a bizarre kind of twist," he said. "The Bank of Nova Scotia matter was going on for the last eight months. The Government of the Bahamas has sought through diplomatic channels, through oral communication, through formal diplomatic notes, by letters, to resolve the matter involving the Bank of Nova Scotia without success," he said.

"Nothing would divert them from their course, including the intervention of the Government of Canada," he said. "We still did not capitulate. We still did not surrender. And then, somewhere along the way, somebody pushed button number three. Somebody said let's call NBC."

"The Bahamas is an independent sovereign nation to be aggressively pursued by no one," Mr Adderley added.

POLITICAL FORCES TRADE ACCUSATIONS OVER DRUG CHARGES

Opposition Leader's Views

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

OFFICIAL Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs last night asked the largest audience to attend an FNM rally this year whether they thought it possible that 1,000 pounds of cocaine could have been trans-shipped through Norman's Cay each month between 1976 and 1982 without the knowledge of government and law enforcement officials.

Addressing over 700 persons attending the rally at the R M Bailey senior High School grounds, the Free National Movement chief said he read in this week's issue of Time Magazine that the DEA told the magazine that between 1976 and 1982, at least 500 kilos, equivalent to roughly 1,000 pounds, in cocaine a month, was trans-shipped through Norman's Cay.

"Now that was between 1976 and 1982," Mr Isaacs told cheering supporters, which numbered slightly more than the large crowd at Thursday night's PLP rally at the Stephen Dillet Primary School at which Prime Minister Pindling spoke.

"Now how could that have happened without the knowledge of the government and law enforcement officers?" the FNM Leader asked. "Six years

of Norman's Cay being used as a trans-shipment centre!"

Mr Isaacs told the crowd, who remained standing throughout the addresses of the eight speakers, that the Bahamian police had raided Norman's Cay over and over again.

"You know, the issue is not whether drugs were found at Norman's Cay this month," Mr Isaacs, a former Attorney General, said. "The issue is, are Sir Lynden and Mr Nottage guilty of the charges which NBC made?"

The names of the Prime Minister and Minister of Youth Kendal Nottage were mentioned on an NBC report alleging that Norman's Cay was a large trans-shipment centre for drugs. NBC investigative reporter Brian Ross in his programme claimed that a Justice Department intelligence report alleged that Government officials were collectively accepting a \$100,000 a month bribe from associates of fugitive financier Robert Vesco to cover up the alleged smuggling of cocaine and marijuana at Norman's Cay.

The Prime Minister has denied the charges and has asked President Ronald Reagan to initiate a high-level inquiry to find out the source of the NBC

report. He has also appointed two persons to a Royal Commission of Inquiry to investigate the charges. The Commission must have at least three members.

The rally is the second held by the official opposition FNM since the NBC report of September 5th.

In his address, Mr Isaacs said he got the impression when he saw the Prime Minister on television that instead of influencing some of his followers like Millie (Moncur), he was allowing Millie to influence him.

"I think that he and his colleagues in the PLP are now suffering from what I would call the Millie syndrome," declared Mr Isaacs.

He said the NBC allegations have been made against the Prime Minister and Mr Nottage and that Bahamians must not allow their minds to be distracted away from that fact.

"No allegations have been made about the FNM past or present members," he said. "Those two men were the ones against whom allegations were made and all this is about whether they are guilty or not."

Another point, the FNM leader hammered home was that whether Channel 7 or NBC

went to Norman's Cay that day and didn't find drugs or found drugs, is not the issue either.

"You see, we know that drug trafficking has taken place and continues to take place in the Bahamas and we also know that drug trafficking took place in Norman's Cay at least up to last year," the official opposition leader charged.

He said ZNS carried parts of opposition speeches out of context to give the impression that what was said had nothing to do with the subject at hand.

But by comparison, Mr Isaacs said, when the Prime Minister appeared on Monday on NBC's Today show, he was allowed time to condemn certain allegations made against him by Mr Ross.

Mr Isaacs said that it has "never, never" happened on ZNS. He pointed out that the FNM, Bahamas Union of Teachers President Leonard Ar-

cher, or anybody accused by the Prime Minister and his government, have never been allowed equal time on ZNS.

He said Sir Lynden Pindling was allowed to come on and answer the allegations, which he neglected to do, and when he felt he did not have enough time, he was given additional time.

"And what was so really peculiar at that was that even though he was given additional time, he complained about it," said Mr Isaacs. "But, yet on ZNS radio station, which he controls, they won't give you one second in order to answer allegations that he and his government might make against you."

He said the institutions of this country are being brought into ridicule by the examples being set for the youth by government.

"They have already brought into ridicule the government

themselves, they have brought the schools into ridicule and disrepute, they have brought ZNS into disrepute and ridicule," he said.

"These institutions were built so that we can have a good and orderly life, that we can have a good quality of life, but if these institutions are torn down by the government itself, then our young people and our not so young people are going to feel that that is the right way of life after all," said Mr Isaacs.

"And you can imagine the kind of country that we will have if the PLP are allowed to remain in power much longer," he said.

Mr Isaacs added: "This country will not be worth living in. They are driving this country right into the ground. They are taking it straight to hell and it is up to all of us to see that as soon as the first opportunity presents itself to really kick the rascals out."

Hanna Attack on FNM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

DEPUTY Prime Minister Arthur Hanna told delegates to a PLP constituency conference not to let the official opposition Free National Movement deny that they had anything to do with the NBC issue on alleged corruption in the Bahamas Government.

Speaking at the second in a series of the governing party's conferences Tuesday evening, Mr Hanna said that because the Bahamas is a stable country, jealousy exists.

"Within recent days someone became jealous of the Bahamas' stability," the Deputy Prime Minister said. "When there is progress there is always jealousy."

According to Mr Hanna, ever since the last election when the FNM got a "big licking, and their friends got a big licking ... their foreign friends and them got a big licking ... they haven't rested."

"And they have promised," said Mr Hanna, "in fact Mr (Kendal) Isaacs when he first came to the House, promised that he will if ... I can't remember the exact words he used so I'm going to paraphrase it ... he said something to this effect. He said if they do not get their way, then we will find that they will confront the government."

He added: "And we called it confrontation politics. In other words, they want to demonstrate and demonstrate if they didn't get their way."

Mr Hanna said that the Government quickly pointed out to the FNM that what the first thing the Leader of the Opposition ought to have done was to congratulate the Prime Minister and his party on their recent victory, accept the voice of the people, accept the decision of the people, then carry on with the business of

assisting in developing the Bahamas.

"The opposition has a role to play," declared the Deputy Prime Minister. "It is not a role of governing but they certainly have a role to play and to keep the government on its toes."

"But they didn't want that and there are many in this country today who, the moment an election is over, begin setting about to see how much they can prevent the government from governing," he said.

"To do that," Mr Hanna added, "would only frustrate the whole system because the basis of democracy is that the will of the people is the ultimate decision that ought to be arrived at."

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

A FREE National Movement MP declared Friday night that he believed the Americans "did what they did, or tried to do what they did" because they were "fed up" with the drug trade operating through the Bahamas.

Addressing hundreds of Free National Movement supporters at a rally on the R M Bailey Senior High School playgrounds, Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes said that the FBI and every honest Bahamian believes that something is wrong "high up because too many funny things have happened."

Mr Foulkes also told the crowd that the Prime Minister has maligned and slandered the opposition for a decade and because he has had only a week of accusations hurled against him, he is "cracking up."

His remarks were in reference to the September 5 charge by NBC correspondent Brian Ross alleging that Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and some government officials have been receiving collectively \$100,000 a month from associates of fugitive American financier Robert Vesco to protect a drug smuggling operation at Norman's Cay.

In the NBC special report, Mr Ross alleged that the FBI had planned to try to bribe Youth Minister Kendal Nottage on a yacht in international waters this summer, but US Ambassador to the Bahamas, Dr Lev Dobriansky stopped the investigation because of the delicate negotiations on the AUTEK naval base at Andros.

"I believe the Americans did what they did, or tried to do what they did because they are fed up with the drug trade operating through the Bahamas," said Mr Foulkes, a former Tourism Minister in the PLP government.

"That's what I believe," he said. "I don't believe it is because we are black, because we have been black from then."

"We were black in '67 when Pindling took over and I noticed his skin ain't got no lighter or no darker and neither has mine," said Mr Foulkes, adding that in fact, the world press was in love with the Prime Minister wherever he went, including New York and London.

"All of these press people were white then and they are white now, so colour has got nothing to do with this," he said.

He wanted to know how under this government Colombians were allowed to come into the Bahamas and chase residents off Norman's Cay and why all of the private homes of Normans Cay residents are now empty.

"I believe the FBI wants to find out," he said. "And you see, it is not only the FBI who believes that something is wrong high, high up. Every single Bahamian, if he wants to be honest, believes that something is wrong high up because too many funny things have happened."

Telling his audience that the FNM is committed to full employment and to wipe out the drug business, Mr Foulkes said that what has happened in the past two weeks shows that the PLP has not forgotten what fairplay is all about.

"They know what it is to be fair," he said. "So when they are unfair, they mean not to be fair."

He charged that ZNS has discriminated against the opposition for the last 10 to 12 years so he felt no sympathy for the Prime Minister when at the end of his interview on NBC's Today show, he threw his hands

into the air saying he did not have enough time.

"He knows what fairplay is like because he got more fairplay from NBC than he gives to his own countrymen," Mr Foulkes said.

He added: "I feel not one little bit of pity for him. And there is another reason I don't feel any pity for him. Mr Pindling and his government, A D Hanna and some of the rest of them, on the floor of the House of Assembly and outside, have maligned us for one whole decade."

"Now he has only had a week of accusations and he is cracking up," said Mr Foulkes. "He has had only a week of accusations and he's talking about his children asking him that he deserved an apology and he's telling his little Pindlings that their daddy deserved more than an apology."

He pointed out that FNM Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield has children also and they know how it is to hear their father accused by the government without a shred of evidence, not for one week, but for 10 years.

He said that the Prime Minister accused Mr Whitfield from the floor of the House of Assembly through the statements of convicted and executed felons "so I have no pity for him for the week he is going through."

He further pointed out that J Henry Bostwick's children and his own children also have feelings, but the Prime Minister had no pity on them "as he slandered our names from the House of Parliament and they had no pity on us when they published that nastiest piece of propaganda that was ever published in any Bahamian election in the last election."

"No pity on us so we don't have no pity on him tonight," declared Mr Foulkes. "Let him learn his lesson. Let him learn what it is. If he is innocent, as he says, let him learn to take blows when you are innocent."

"Let him learn what it is to look in the eyes of your children knowing they got confidence in you, but wondering if maybe there is a little thought lingering in the back of their minds about these accusations made about their father," he added.

He said that his children and the children of Mr Bostwick and Mr Whitfield walk about the country free and without bodyguards because they have nothing to fear.

"And you know, Pindling told the police so quickly to investigate this whole matter, this slander, but did he say to the police when the libel was published against us, did he call on the police to investigate that criminal libel?" Mr Foulkes asked.

PLP Defense

Nassau THE HERALD in English 23 Sep 83 pp 4-5

[Remarks by the Honorable Hubert A. Ingraham, MP, minister of housing and national insurance, at the Progressive Liberal Party's joint constituencies conference, 14 September 1983]

[Text]

WHEN our Party decided to hold these Constituency Conferences, we had no idea that the events of the past week would have become table and street talk throughout The Bahamas. Because of this, you will forgive me — I am sure — for devoting my speech to the NBC Report, drug trafficking and allegations of corruption in The Bahamas, for as I said last week and repeat tonight, these allegations published and broadcast in various parts of the world have smeared, damaged and tarnished the good name of our Prime Minister, our Government and our Country.

FOR quite sometime now The Bahamas has been used as a transit State or conduit through which drugs intended for the United States of America pass by air and sea. In the initial stages, this illicit drug trafficking was operated almost exclusively by foreigners. Bahamian involvement and appetite for trafficking in our Family Islands came about by Americans and other foreigners dumping their grime overboard whenever the heat became too much to keep it or by stashing the same on many of our numerous cays scattered all over The Bahamas. In both these instances, Bahamians eventually found the drug and immediately recognized it as a

source of great, instant and immediate wealth. Bahamian involvement in drug trafficking has now escalated to the point whereby significant numbers of our fellow citizens regard it as a way of life. This applies in Nassau, Freeport as well as Abaco, (I shall return to Abaco about which I have some personal comments) Bimini, Eleuthera, Andros, Exuma, Cat Island, Inagua, Acklins, Long Island, Mayaguana and elsewhere throughout the Country. It is almost a national involvement and embraces Bahamians of all political and religious persuasions.

THE geography of The Bahamas in relation to the United States of America is ideal for

tourism on the one hand and equally as ideal as a transit point for drug shipment to the United States on the other hand.

THE role of a large number of Bahamians in drug trafficking is still limited to facilitating delivery to the United States from The Bahamas as we are not producers of drugs. The production of drugs takes place in Latin American countries like Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador inter alia. During the course of a speech last week I said "everybody knows that just as the most effective and certain way to kill snake is to cut off its head, the most effective way to stem the flow of drugs through The Bahamas is to cut it off at the source in Latin America and other parts of the Caribbean." "Perhaps if the great United States of America commits as much of its resources, energy and leadership in eliminating the source of drugs as it is apparently prepared to commit and to expend to destabilise and overthrow the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua, the Castro Government in Cuba or in the provision of arms and ammunition for the corrupt

and undemocratic Government of El Salvador and elsewhere. The Bahamas and the United States of America may both be rid of their drug problem." Of course, at the time I made those comments, I had no idea that the third ranking Pentagon Official, Under Secretary of Defence and top policy planner in the incumbent Administration in Washington would confirm in the clearest statement to date that the United States Government intends to destabilise the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua! (Page 10 — Miami Herald — 13 September 1983).

YOU might be interested in knowing that in a statement submitted to the sub-committee on Western Hemisphere Affairs of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 14th March, 1983 the United States Government in a prepared statement confirmed that development assistance totalling some 300 million dollars was proposed for a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries including Jamaica, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru (all of which are unashamedly and unapologetically drug producing states). Eight nations were scheduled to receive 50 million dollars each in economic assistance including Jamaica and Peru both drug producing states! In addition, 4 nations were scheduled to receive 15 million dollars in military assistance including Colombia and Peru, both drug producing States!! According to information reaching me, the United States is proposing or has extended in addition to the aid previously mentioned, further aid totalling some 60 million dollars to Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia primarily for food. In addition a further 90 million dollars is proposed in disaster relief, reconstruction relief for roads, bridges to contain mud slides, restore irrigation facilities for farmers and **EXTEND CREDIT TO FARMERS WHO HAVE LOST CROPS.** Of course, we all hope that none of the aid money reached the cocaine farmers of Bolivia, Peru or Ecuador —but you will never know.

HAS anybody heard in recent times of any major effort on the part of drug producing countries to arrest and charge cocaine planters, growers, transporters, shippers in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador or Colombia. Doesn't NBC have an interest in a continuing exercise to expose this?

HERE in The Bahamas, what has the Government been doing about persons who facilitate — not grow, produce but who facilitate the illicit, despicable and socially disruptive drug trade? First it is illegal to possess. Many Bahamians and many more foreigners have been convicted, jailed and or fined in our courts for drug trafficking, conspiracy and possession. How does the country which makes a notable and sustained effort to reduce the incidences of drug-traffic-ing get to be the bad guy while the countries which produce the thing, get rewarded by aid is beyond the comprehension of a simple boy from Abaco? It is equally as true today as it was when it was first said; money is the root of all evil.

DRUG TRAFFICKING has changed and is continuing to change our people in alarming ways. It has affected our morality, attitude, beliefs, convictions and aspiration. It is an evil and destructive force in our society. It has changed and is continuing to change many of our values and attitudes towards work and life. It is an evil which threatens to overwhelm us but unless and until greater efforts are made by the United States of America and drug producing countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and South East Asia, the evil will get worse and more Bahamians will become corrupted by it!

JUST as St. Paul of Biblical times found it hard to "kick against the prick," so it is for human beings and money.

DESPITE our best, sincere and sustained efforts to convince Bahamians that assisting in the transport of drugs is wrong, we continue to fail. They simply do not believe it nor do they believe that it is morally wrong.

LET me talk about Abaco about which I know much; from which I hail and on whose behalf I have been elected to speak (not as a delegate) as a Representative. It does not matter that what I am about to say will not be widely embraced by my fellow Abaco-nians or accepted, nor does it matter that other islands in The Bahamas are just as bad or worse.

DESPITE the fact that over the last 10 years The Bahamas Government has stationed and posted policemen in Moore's Island, Sandy Point, Treasure Cay, Cooper's Town and Walker's Cay, more illegal drug trafficking is taking place in Abaco than at any time in our history! It is being done boldly and almost within full public view.

MANY are involved from both sides of the political and colour boundaries and it threatens to overwhelm us.

WHILE law enforcement officers — more particularly in very recent times are doing a reasonable job under difficult circumstances, drug trafficking continues.

CERTAINLY everybody in my Constituency know my position — which is and always has been get out and stay out and don't bother to call me for help or assistance when or if you are caught engaging in this illegal activity. My admonitions have had little effect. Some persons whom I regard as my friends are involved and yes the Commission ought to determine the extent (if any) of any official involvement.

BUT what can we do? There is only so much that we in The Bahamas can do to combat drug trafficking. There is only so much money, equipment and manpower we can employ to combat this evil. Our social, infrastructural and economic development is influenced to a large extent by drug trafficking. Its use increases the flow of foreign currency in The Bahamas and places significant sums at the disposal of previously deprived and poor persons while at the same time the fight against it requires the Government to expend an ever

increasing disproportionate per centum of our National Budget on the Police and the Defence Force.

IF it were not for drug trafficking much of the deficiencies in the public sector would not exist. Monies which may otherwise have been used for school furniture, employment of teachers; school maintenance and construction, roads, housing, health care and other necessities has had to go into the police department and defence force.

MIAMI, Florida United States of America is often referred to and known as the "Casablanca of Coke." Despite the great wealth, technology and power of the United States of America, it is estimated that some 70% of all cocaine imported into the United States passes through Florida. If the United States cannot prevent drugs from being landed, transported, shipped, distributed and sold in Florida, Georgia, Texas, California, Chicago and New York, how can we be expected to do so in The Bahamas?

DOES it mean that because this trafficking continues in the United States that high United States Government officials are paid protection money by drug traffickers. Of course not. Not necessarily — and not necessarily in The Bahamas. It is possible that high officials in the United States are involved just as it is possible that high officials in The Bahamas are involved. In our case we have determined that a full scale independent, impartial Royal Commission of Enquiry under the Chairmanship of a former Justice, Chief Justice and member of the Court of Appeal for Bahamas, Belize and Bermuda will be conducted immediately.

WE do not care where or who the investigation leads the Commission to in arriving at a determination. We have absolutely no interest in protecting, aiding or giving comfort or assistance to anyone be he Cabinet Minister, Member of Parliament, Senator, policeman, Defence Force Personnel, Customs Officer, Immigration Officer or anybody else. If any of

such persons are involved, we want to flush them out, expose them and punish them to the maximum extent possible for bringing shame and disgrace upon the good name of our Government, country and people. I note that the Free National Movement has taken exception to the terms of reference of the Royal Commission, including an investigation of all politicians. Well, with the greatest respect to the Free National Movement, it is our considered view that the investigation ought not only be limited to the Cabinet as they perhaps privately hoped, but all politicians be they PLP or FNM. We will bury our dead and the FNM had better get ready to bury their dead! No PLP anywhere, be he Cabinet Minister, Member of Parliament, Civil Servant or anybody else has any right to provide protection for drug smugglers and traffickers in my name or on my behalf, nor do I have the right to do so on their behalf. I do not wish to be associated or in anyway supportive of any such persons neither does the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister have any such wish to interest. I believe I speak for all my colleagues on this point. I certainly hope so.

YES, let the chips fall where they may and let any and all corrupt persons be exposed and punished so that we can get on with the business of governing this country.

YOU see, many Bahamians view the business of facilitating the transport of drugs to the United States in the same light that boot-legging has previously been viewed in The Bahamas. Many of them do not believe or accept that anything is wrong with what they are doing. They seem to feel that since the drugs are intended for the United States of America there is nothing wrong with it. This is of course absolutely false.

ACCORDING to Time Magazine of September 12th, 1983 page 35 under the heading "SNOW BLIZZARD" a drug glut slashes prices" it is reported that the American nationwide distribution of cocaine imported into the United

States is controlled from Miami. Cocaine is plentiful at cut rate in Miami, Florida. The price has dropped from \$60,000 per kilo in 1981 to \$30,000 now.

TIME MAGAZINE estimates that the cocaine glut in the United States could last until late 1984 or early 1985 because illegal Colombians cocoa plantations seeded four (4) years ago have now started to bring four (4) crops annually, double those produced in Peru and Bolivia where cocoa is produced LEGALLY! Colombians have in anticipation of their bumper crop, increased the refineries of their labs. To reduce the inventory wholesalers in Colombia are moving their inventories fast. Obviously, great efforts must be made to reduce the production of cocaine in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and elsewhere if the amount of drugs passing through The Bahamas is to be reduced significantly.

WHY is that Colombia, Peru and Bolivia are either unwilling or unable to prevent the production, sale shipment and transport of cocaine from their countries. The Bahamas with its hundreds of cays, one hundred thousand square miles of water, scores of airports or airstrips scattered all over The Bahamas, is willing and prepared to do something about it? But we are overwhelmed by the quantity and access routes into and out of The Bahamas.

THE problem must be attacked at the source and at the point of distribution in Latin America and the United States itself. Of course, it must continue to be attacked along the routes which the drugs travel right in The Bahamas and elsewhere.

IF the great and powerful United States of America is unable to prevent the delivery of drugs into Florida and other points in the United States, how are we going to prevent the trans-shipment of drugs from Gorda Cay, Treasure Cay, Marsh Harbour, the cane fields, Sandy Point, Moore's Island, Pelican Point, North Eleuthera, North Andros, Bimini, Mayaguana, Inagua, Stella

Maris, George Town, Nassau, Freeport and elsewhere in The Bahamas. Does it mean that because roughly 70% of the drugs entering the United States goes to Florida that Senator Paula Hawkins the Florida United States Senator is providing protection for drug smugglers and trafficking? Of course not!! Much, if not all of the cash for drug transactions come out of and go into Florida Banks right under the nose, right in Uncle Sam's country. Persons who want to operate outside the law will do so irrespective of the consequences and that is why despite the commendable, worthy and in many ways fruitful efforts of the United States President's task force under the Chairmanship of the United States Vice President — the shipment distribution and sale of illicit drugs in Florida remains unabated. It enters by ship and plane. If the US cannot prevent its airstrips, high-ways, ports, harbours and docks from being used for this illicit purpose, then tell me how, can The Bahamas prevent it. Any answer other than we cannot — defies both logic and common sense.

I read in the Tribune last evening, that Mr. Arthur Foulkes the Free National Movement Member of Parliament for Baillou Hills is quoted as saying inter alia that the interests of The Bahamas or the FNM (I am not sure which of the two he meant) "are identical, our interest in this region are identical, peace, prosperity and democracy for all the people in the region."

WHILE I agree that our interest in maintaining democracy is similar, I respect the right of self-determination for all people and if the good people of Chile elected Allende — a Socialist as their Leader, I respect that and would wish for my friend, our friend the United States of America to respect that. Make no mistake about this, we are a sovereign country. The fact that we are small does not make us any less a country. The best of friends have different interests from time to time. Indeed

from time to time individual States in the United States of America find that the interest of that State is not identical to the interest of the United States Government. The interest of the United States and The Bahamas is different in several material respects.

TRUE FRIENDSHIP is never put to the test until and unless one party experiences some personal or other difficulty and the acts or omissions of the other party is viewed dispassionately. I might say however, that our friend and neighbour the United States of America cannot realistically hope to have a Bahamian Prime Minister who is a better and more reliable and dependable friend of America than Lynden Pindling! The Progressive Liberal Party regards the United States as its friend and so do the people and Government of The Bahamas. Friendship does not, cannot and must not mean acceptance and agreement with everything one's friend does or in this instance, that we must be pro-American to the extent that we become un-Bahamian. Friendship must mean mutual respect, trust and admiration coupled with equality in our bilateral dealings. We admire the United States of America, recognize its undisputed, earned and well-deserved leadership of the Western World but size, power and leadership cannot make right wrong neither does power or money.

TRUE AND HONEST FRIENDS DO HAVE TRUE AND HONEST DIS-AGREEMENTS.

THE interest of true friends cannot always be the same or identical in all respects. For instance, we differ with the Americans about our bank secrecy laws — indeed we differ violently. We do not accept and will never accept that United

States law enforcement officers could or ought to be allowed to operate in The Bahamas without the expressed explicit and clearly defined permission of The Bahamas Government.

WE believe that we, Bahamians, know what is best for The Bahamas and in the final analysis we will always attempt, seriously and sincerely attempt to tactfully, politely and respectfully convince others that there are well-founded and well-grounded reasons for our positions. Despite our size we are a sovereign country and we are Bahamians. Bahamians first, second, third and last. We shall stand or fall on this premise. Our sovereignty is not negotiable. Independence is after all a state of mind. If the Bahamian people believe that The Bahamas ought to be handed over lock, stock and barrel to another — then so be it. As for myself, I would want no part of it!

WE co-operate and will continue to co-operate with United States authorities in drug related activities in our country. You will notice that there are two United States Helicopters stationed at the Police Compound on John F. Kennedy Drive. The helicopters do surveillance and respond to information passed on usually by United States authorities. The helicopters are manned by United States agencies personnel and they are always accompanied by at least two members of the Police Strike Force.

THE police spent over \$120,000 last year just for aircraft surveillance in The Bahamas.

Talk of 'Repercussions' With U.S.

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 Sep 83 p 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

FNM BAMBOO Town candidate Tennyson Wells said Friday night that he had heard through the "grape wine" that Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has warned of repercussions between the Bahamas and the United States if he doesn't have his way over the NBC allegations of corruption in his Government.

"Now Mr Prime Minister ... he also said that there was going to be some repercussion," Mr Wells declared in his address at the FNM rally at the Golden Gates-Carmichael Primary School, which was cut short by rain.

"I understand he told the Ministers (of religion) that he is going to fight until the bitter end and if it don't go his way, there is going to be some repercussions between the Bahamas and the United States," he said. "I don't know whether it is true or not, I am only telling you what I heard through the grape wine."

Asking what the Prime Minister meant by repercussions, Mr Wells asked: "Are we going to suffer a decline in tourism? Are the taxi drivers not going to have any tourists to drive around anymore? Are there not going to be any tourists in the straw market to purchase the vendors' goods, or the shopkeepers on Bay Street and Over-The-Hill and the hotels? Is this what he is talking about in order to get his way?"

In his address, Mr Wells, the FNM Finance Committee Chairman, also took issue with remarks by the Prime Minister that an attack on himself and Mr Nottage is an attack on the Bahamas.

"Now I am a Bahamian and my generations go back to 1787 in this country, I believe, on

both sides of my family, those from Africa and those from Europe, whichever part they came from," he said.

"And, I am as much Bahamian ... I ain't have no doubt that I am more Bahamian than him (the Prime Minister, whose father is a Jamaican), but what he is talking about is that he is the Bahamas," Mr Wells said. "Now that's a bunch of foolishness because when those fellows attacked him, they didn't attack me. I don't consider myself being accused."

"And when we elected him as Prime Minister, if he is involved or if he is receiving these bribes as alleged, we did not elect him to receive no bribe," Mr Wells, a lawyer, declared.

He added: "We elected him to carry out legal duties of the Prime Minister, not to receive any bribe. So don't come and try to put that over on us, or the Bahamian people because we had nothing to do with that and we did not put him there to do what has been alleged."

Mr Wells also criticized Mr Nottage for his remarks Thursday night that he would walk on whatever carpet is laid on Bay Street when the House of Assembly reconvenes on October 5.

His remarks were in reference to a statement by the Trade Union Congress that it would lay a human carpet on Bay Street in a demonstration planned for the opening of the House to continue its fight for the re-instatement of Teachers Union President Leonard Archer as a high school principal.

"The FNM supports the trade union movement and lest the Government of this day, the present Government, shows more respect for the trade union movement, all they are going to have in this country for the next couple of years so long as they

remain in power, is trouble and turmoil," Mr Wells said.

"Whenever you have a Minister of the Government who is supposed to represent the youth and is supposed to guide the way for youth, say that he is prepared to walk on any carpet that is laid on Bay Street or that presents itself on Bay Street, then you know this country is headed for trouble," he said.

Mr Wells said Mr Nottage knew when he made the statement that the carpet the TUC talked about "is people."

"That is not no fibre or cloth or straw. That is people," Mr Wells said. "What the trade unions were talking about a carpet is people and he told us plain at a public rally that he is going to walk on them."

He said the only way that industry and commerce can survive, be it Government-controlled or private enterprise, in these times is if there is a tripartite system where the Government is supposed to be the arbiter between the employer and the employee.

"That's the role of the Government, not to get out there and try and boot the workers or uphold the employer," he said. "They are supposed to be judges, so to speak, but we do not have that in the Ministry of Labour, not in my view."

Mr Wells said that when officials in the Ministry of Labour get involved in any dispute they know they are working for the Government.

"Any dispute between BEC and the BEC Union or between Batelco and the Batelco Union or between the Civil Service and the Government, the Ministry of Labour is another arm of the Government and the workers cannot get justice under those circumstances," Mr Wells said.

FIRES AT SCHOOLS APPEAR TO BE DELIBERATELY SET

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

ANOTHER Government school was hit by fire last night. Two classrooms at RM Bailey Senior High School, Robinson Road, were completely destroyed by a fire believed to have been "deliberately set."

This is the second government school to be seriously damaged by fire within the past 18 days.

According to newly appointed headmaster, Errol Bethel, he was notified about the fire shortly after 1 o'clock this morning. Fire officials reported that they received a call at 12:36 and arrived at the scene shortly afterwards.

The fire, which destroyed two classrooms in the English Language/Agriculture block, was discovered by the school's security officer. The headmaster said that these classrooms had been undergoing repairs over the past two weeks and had almost been completed.

Mr Bethel said this morning that the security officer spotted an area of grass burning at the school's gate and went to investigate when he noticed flames coming from the English block located at the rear of the campus.

"It is obvious that the fire at

the gate was started as a distraction," Mr Bethel said, adding that the security officer had reported that he didn't see anyone on the campus at the time.

The headmaster also pointed out a burned spot of grass and a burned section underneath the window of another block of classrooms several hundred yards away from the two that were destroyed. He said it appeared that attempts had been made to start another fire.

"The fire was obviously deliberately set in the eastern end of the block of classes, because it is that section of the building that was completely destroyed," Mr Bethel said. "Now if you look at this burnt spot of grass and under the window, which was removed, it would be unreasonable to assume that the fire spread across here, missing out completely a block of classrooms in the middle," he said.

Cans of paint and paint brushes, signs that repairs were going on in the classrooms, were still distinguishable in the rubble. Desks and chairs, some of them new, were twisted and melted from the fire. The roof and walls of the wooden structure had collapsed, while the floor had been completely burned out.

The walls of two classes at the western end of the building, used to give instructions in agriculture, were blackened by the smoke and sections of the roof damaged by water.

Today when The Tribune visited RM Bailey, dozens of students were sitting outside under the trees. Mr Bethel said the fire has created an accommodations problem for students dislocated by the fire. Before the fire further complicated the situation, the school was still in the process of trying to place new students in existing classes.

On August 29 a mystery fire at DW Davis Junior High School completely destroyed two classrooms while several others were damaged by smoke and water. This fire was also discovered by the school security guard, who reported that when he smelled smoke he went to check it out. He said he saw someone running from behind the classrooms. It is believed that fire was started in the sewing room, located on the second floor.

Today a number of fire officials and CID officers were conducting an investigation at RM Bailey school.

BAHAMIANS REPLACE BRITISH OFFICERS IN DEFENSE FORCE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

BAHAMAS DEFENCE
Force Commander Commodore Christopher Belton and another senior British officer will leave the Bahamas Sunday, *The Tribune* learned today.

A third British officer, Lt Cmdr David Sarson, who was in charge of the air wing, left the Defence Force Wednesday.

Commodore Belton, whose two year tour of duty ends Friday, will be replaced by Capt Leon Smith. Capt Smith will have the distinction of being the first Bahamian commander of the Defence Force.

Lt Comdr David Henderson, sea training officer, leaves Sunday for the Royal Naval Air Station in Yelverton.

The Tribune was unable to get an official statement on the departures today. Bahamas Information Service chief Cyril Stevenson received a report from the Ministry of Defence this morning, but was sitting on the information until later today.

"All are standard departures. The three of them are loaned serving Royal Navy officers. They're not going early, they're not going late. They're just going on time," a Defence Force source said.

The source said that all three

British officers will be replaced by Bahamians.

"The Defence Force is a young Force. As Bahamian officers gain experience they will naturally take over senior positions. I don't think there is any feeling of getting rid of the UK officers," the source said.

A Ministry of Defence official told *The Tribune* that all three officers are leaving the Bahamas on schedule and will be returning to the Royal Navy.

"We're Bahamianizing the force every day," he said when asked if the Ministry has decided to replace all of the British officers.

It is understood that Police Sgt Morris Williams now has the job of flying Defence Force aircraft.

There are eight British officers left in the Force: Lt Cmdr Fred Owens, personnel and supplies officer; Cmdr David King, base executive officer; Cmdr Charles Mohurn, base engineer officer; Cmdr A J Wray, squadron commanding officer; Lt Cmdr Michael North, course design officer, Senior Lt Brian Beverley, marine engineering officer; Lt Peter Harrington and Lt David Smith, weapons electrical officer and hull engineering officer.

Both Cmdrs King and Mohurn arrived here in January on a three year contract. It is believed that Lt Beverley took up his three year posting at the end of 1982.

The new commander of the Defence Force, Capt Smith, assumed command of HMBS Coral Harbour and became second in command of the Force on September 14, 1982. He became the first Bahamian to reach the rank of Captain in the Force in October that year.

Capt Smith joined the Police Force in 1957, rising to the rank of Deputy Superintendent. In 1980, he was transferred from the Marine Division of the Police Force to the Defence Force in the rank of commander.

Prior to his appointment as captain, he successfully completed a course at the Royal Naval Staff College at Greenwich, London. He was the first Bahamian to attend the Royal Naval Staff College.

ADAMS, IN CANADA, EXTOLS DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 2 Oct 83 p 2

[Text]

TORONTO —

Enlightened aid and expanded trade — not arms — are the most important elements shaping the future growth and prosperity of the Caribbean, according to Barbados' Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams.

Mr. Adams told an audience of Canadian business leaders that despite the provocative words and actions of some Caribbean states, the continual and logical development of trade between the region and Canada and the United States would speak louder than any rhetoric in the argument over the evolution of the Caribbean basin.

And, he told a special dinner meeting of the Royal Commonwealth Society recently that Barbados would continue to depend on its "warm and close relationship with Canada, particularly as we grapple with the very real problems of major powers exerting their influence in the area."

In a candid question-and-answer session following a wide-ranging speech, he said that the presence of a government in Grenada that is "in the hands of committed Marxists-Leninists" did provide the Caribbean with "real and difficult problems." But he reassured Canadians that the government's rhetoric was much more strident than its actions. And,

he said, the policies of Barbados paralleled those of Canada in its North-South view of development.

"In short, we feel more can be achieved through the provision of trade and aid than arms, and we regret the political dimension that has now been added to the social and economic problems of the Caribbean," he declared.

The Prime Minister was quick to acknowledge the contributions Canada has made to the Caribbean region, particularly the commitment to double its aid over the 1982 to 1987 period. And he pointed out an opportunity for Canada to participate in the growth of the Caribbean.

"One area in which Barbados, and I am sure other Caribbean nations, would welcome greater participation is in private sector investment. Of 54 foreign industries in Barbados, only nine are now Canadian-owned. United States businessmen have seized the initiative in this respect and are benefitting from the 10-year tax haven offered by the Government of Barbados and similar incentives provided in neighbouring territories," Mr. Adams said.

He told the audience that they could blunt domestic criticism of Canadian aid to Barbados during a recessionary period in Canada by pointing out that 80 per cent of foreign aid traditionally comes back to the donor country. "The most unfortunate aspect of 'foreign aid' is its perception as a 'giveaway', he explained. Foreign aid is often given in terms of credits toward purchases in the donor country, an important mechanism that can benefit both parties.

MANUFACTURERS SEEK GOVERNMENT ACTION ON TRINIDAD LICENSING

Concern Over Chambers Speech

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 9 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Manufacturers Association has expressed concern about news reports of a speech by Prime Minister George Chambers in the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament, regarding new measures to monitor and control the outflow of foreign currency, as it affects Caricom trade.

Mr. Chambers, in his statement, observed that it was clear that direct measures of control were required to supplement fiscal and monetary measures, in order, as he put it, to further discourage "the strong preference for expenditure on foreign

goods and services."

But the BMA noted that Mr. Chambers' statement came at a time when several local manufacturers had prepared their goods in anticipation of the Christmas trade, and were consequently very worried.

At a meeting of export manufacturers at the Rockley Resort Hotel yesterday, the BMA's executive committee was mandated to study the implications of Mr. Chambers' statement, and formulate appropriate strategy.

Call for Action

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 9 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

BARBADIAN MANUFACTURERS, at a meeting yesterday, called on Government to take positive action against Trinidad's decision to revoke all import licences.

They raised the points that immediate steps should be taken to have these licences revalidated, those applied for be granted as quickly as possible, and that all "foreign currency be blocked". They were unanimous about the urgency in finding a solution to deal with Trinidad's hard line measures.

The meeting of manufacturers at the Rockley Resort, in Christ Church, was originally summoned to talk about "difficulties" in obtaining licences from Trinidad and Jamaica. However the meeting was forced to deal with the broader issue of Trinidad's revocation of all CARICOM import licences, in a move by that country's government to plug large-scale foreign exchange leaks.

According to Barbados Manufacturers' Association (BMA) president, Mr. Henry Vieira, manufacturers here were very disturbed over the pronouncement by Trinidad and Tobago's prime

minister, Mr. George Chambers, in which he put an immediate clamp on imports to his country.

Mr. Chamber's move is aimed at what the Trinidad prime minister termed "the virtual haemorrhage of foreign exchange" plaguing the twin island republic despite a tightening of credit in the commercial banking sector and fiscal measures introduced in last December's budget.

One manufacturer in Barbados described it as a deliberate and calculated move at the eleventh hour, aimed at the garment manufacturers to stop the flow of garments to Trinidad for Christmas and carnival.

BMA president, Mr. Vieira, said it was difficult for local manufacturers who were now gearing up to ship to Trinidad for the season, and it would have devastating effects on their trade.

Manufacturers pointed out that they now had a maximum of three weeks before they could ship to Trinidad for the Christmas market and unless the matter was resolved immediately they would be in a critical financial situation.

One manufacturer attending yesterday's meeting said his company had been hit terribly this year and that he had been looking forward to Christmas and carnival shipments.

Mr. Chamber's moves have come in the wake of the "Dover Agreement" in which there was a virtual truce earlier this year in the trade war between Barbados and Trinidad and Jamaica.

It was also felt that the Trinidad move could affect wages in the manufacturing sector next week.

In the meantime export manufacturers have mandated the BMA's executive committee to study Mr. Chamber's statement and plan in detail appropriate strategy.

CSO: 3298/105

OPPOSITION HITS ADAMS ON CARICOM, WORLD BANK ISSUES

Slap at Trip to Trinidad

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 4 Oct 83 p 24

[Text]

DR. RICHIE HAYNES, Opposition spokesman on finance, has said that a recent trip by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Tom Adams, to Trinidad to chair a CARICOM Finance Ministers Meeting which he called, was "completely disastrous".

Dr. Haynes said that the Trinidad host, prime minister and minister of finance of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. George Chambers, did not attend, nor was the prime minister and minister of finance of Jamaica, Mr. Edward Seaga present.

"Nothing was achieved," Dr. Haynes said, "and our Prime Minister found himself in a dispute with the Trinidad and Tobago private sector over the origin of his deputy's shirt-jacket, and when it was pointed out that he had made an error, he regarded that as rudeness."

Dr. Haynes added: "It was pathetic to hear our Prime Minister state that he had heard from a member of the Cabinet of Trinidad that that government had taken an important decision in relation to the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) when one would have expected our Prime Minister to have heard from the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago."

The Opposition finance spokesman said that by now, Mr. Adams must realise that that penalty for mismanagement of our affairs in the CMCF was severe and that Barbados, with Bds\$130 million owing to it, was anxious to discuss a problem which attracted little interest from other member States.

Misuse of Indices

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 4 Oct 83 p 24

[Text]

OPPOSITION finance spokesman, Dr. Richie Haynes, has described Prime Minister Tom Adams, as "a victim of his own propaganda".

Dr. Haynes was referring to what he called, "the lamentations" of the Prime Minister about the World Bank's attempt to "graduate" Barbados, and in this way excluding Barbados from certain facilities for development loans.

The Opposition spokesman said: "The World Bank was guided by the same indices which Mr. Adams repeatedly misuses in each annual budgetary presentation when he subjects the country to boasting about the extent to which he has improved the GNP (Gross National Product) and the per capita income of Barbadians."

Dr. Haynes said that each year he had been forced to point out the deficiencies of those indices since they did not speak to factors of crucial importance such as income distribution through wage levels in the community, the purchasing power of those wages, levels of unemployment and inflation and the widespread poverty in the country.

He added that the reported levels of per capita income when compared with the actual average wages paid to the various categories of workers in Barbados, showed such a striking difference that one readily appreciated why the indices used by the Prime Minister and the World Bank should not determine the eligibility of Barbados for access to certain facilities, nor should they be used as evidence of prosperity in the country.

CSO: 3298/105

NEW PERMANENT SECRETARY NAMED IN TRADE MINISTRY

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has a new Permanent Secretary. He is Mr. Harcourt Williams former Permanent Secretary, Planning. Mr. Williams appointment took effect from October 1, as he replaced Mr. Lonnie Taylor who retired from the public service a month ago.

Mr. Williams brings to the Trade Ministry a wealth of experience in public administration, economic trade, and investment matters.

The new Permanent Secretary entered the Barbados public service in 1951, some 32 years ago, and made rapid progress through the ranks.

The holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree (summa cum laude) in Economics from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico (1966), and a Master of Arts, Economics degree from the University of Western Ontario (1967), Mr. Williams is in no way new to the Ministry of Trade.

His direct contact with the Ministry dates back to 1971, when he was ap-

pointed Senior Assistant Secretary, Trade. In July 1978 he was promoted to the post of Permanent Secretary, Trade before his transfer, in October of that year, to the post of Permanent Secretary, planning.

Mr. Williams also served as Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning during 1967-68; and as Senior Economist, Economic Planning Unit, from 1968-71.

As Senior Economist, Planning and Senior Assistant Secretary, Trade, he worked extensively on trade matters. It was in this capacity that he saw the evolution of the Caribbean integration movement from Carifta to Caricom.

Mr. Williams has also served on the Board of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) during the period 1969-78. (BGIS)

NEW COMPANY TO MANUFACTURE TV'S, OTHER ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 2 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] Barbados' export register will be given a big boost when a new enterprise engaged in the manufacture and assembly of colour television sets, video recorders and car radios opens here towards the end of this month.

M and G Projects (Barbados) Limited, the manufacturers, will be located at Six Roads Industrial Park, St. Philip.

Chairman, Mr. Ernst Diederichs, speaking from his company's booth at the Barbados Hotel Association's trade exhibition at the old airport terminal yesterday, said the company will employ 95 people initially but this number could rise to 250 by the end of 1985.

Seventy-five percent of the firm's employees will be skilled, 15 percent semi-skilled and 10 percent unskilled.

The company is managed by Barbadian, Mr. Ronald Jones, who told reporters that M and G Projects will also be involved in programming dishes for satellite receiving stations.

"The company has also done a feasibility study regarding cable television and we are still witnessing the results," Mr. Jones said.

According to Mr. Diederichs, 60 percent of the electronic equipment will be brought in to be assembled here while the other 40 percent will be manufactured locally.

The company, operating under licence from Germany, will be exporting 80 percent of its products, with the other 20 percent remaining in Barbados.

Export markets have been identified in other Caribbean Islands, including the French and Dutch, Venezuela, Panama and parts of the United States.

The company has brought in three engineers from Germany to train Barbadians for the more technical areas of manufacturing process but Mr. Diederichs pointed out that in two years' time the Barbadians will, in turn, be able to train other locals.

The company's first products are expected to hit the market by the end of November.

The company will be providing a factory back-up after sales service for its products.

It also plans to design and instal television networks for hotels.

CS0: 3298/106

ARSON DESTROYS HIGH COURT OFFICES, LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 4 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Arthur Gay]

[Text]

FIRE completely destroyed the offices of the Chief Marshal of the High Court, and the Court Processing Office, early yesterday. Arson is suspected, and police are carrying out investigations.

According to Chief Fire Officer, Mr. George Gittens: "It is a clear case of arson."

He said that the first report of the fire had been received at the Probyn Street offices, around 4:15 a.m. Three units responded promptly, and the chief arrived soon after to direct operations. The fire was brought under control within 45 minutes.

The fire chief said that the solid construction of the building, and the nature of the solid mahogany furniture in the courts, must have frustrated the intentions, if such it had been, to destroy the entire building.

ARSON

Inside the building, evidence of arson could be deduced from the fact that there might have been three separate fires. One such was confined to the area sur-

rounding the chambers of Mr. Justice Lindsay Worrell, where charred papers were found in the drawers of the judge's desk. His telephone was also destroyed.

The inner-door to this chamber had been "jimmied open", and this seemed to indicate that the chambers had been used as the "exit point" of the culprit or culprits.

The first and second floors of the building were the scene of more extensive damage, and most of the records were subject to destruction.

RESCUERS

Rescuers of documents belonging to the Process Office and the Law Library, included the Chief Justice Sir William Douglas, and court prosecutor, Assistant Superintendent Courtenay Springer.

As a result of the fire, the following chambers have been rendered useless: The Court Process Office, the Chief Marshal's Office, the Supreme Court chambers of Nos. Three and Four, and the judges' chambers annexed thereto. The Law Library was also extensively damaged.

However, up to late yesterday evening, no official estimate of the cost of the damage has been forthcoming.

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION LEADER TALKS--Roseau, Dominica, Thursday (CANA)--Dominica's five Opposition parliamentarians, representing mixed interests, have been holding consultations with a view to choosing a candidate from among themselves for the vacant post of Leader of the Opposition, Opposition sources said. The sources said there were some differences to be resolved, but the discussions would continue. The New Chronicle reported at the weekend that the reason why the parliamentarians wanted the Opposition Leader post filled was on the assumption that President Aurelius Marie's term of office would expire next month. Any new appointment is subject to agreement between the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader. The Dominica Constitution stipulates that the Leader of the Opposition must command the support of the majority of members on the Opposition benches. However, following the 1980 general election, the four elected opposition members were equally divided--two independents and two Democratic Labour Party (DEMLAB) members. The fifth person to join the Opposition benches was Henry Dyer, dismissed from the Cabinet of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles two months ago. The sources said that with Dyer's resignation from the ruling Dominica Freedom Party (DFP), members were enthusiastic about the likelihood of choosing a leader for the first time in the current parliamentary session. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 Oct 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/107

ANNUAL TUC CONFERENCE OPENS; DIVISIONS REPORTED

Slippage of PNC Control

Georgetown MIRROR in English 18 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Deep cracks are evident in the trade union movement. This growing rift is expected to be most evident during the upcoming Annual Delegates Conference of the Trades Union Congress later this month.

The once tight PNC control over the leadership of the umbrella body has been slipping as more unions and leading trade unionists assert their independence and express bitter criticisms of both the government and the TUC.

On the heels of the withdrawal of a leading NUPSE official from the TUC Executive, six other unions called a public meeting on Thursday last at the Bourda Mall to discuss issues that have been brought to the fore in a chain of industrial disputes, especially at state-owned enterprises.

Speaking at the meeting were N.K. Gopaul, General Secretary of NAACIE; Lincoln Lewis, General President of GMWU; James Dastajir, Communication Officer of GAWU and Gordon Todd, President of the CCWU. Representatives of the UGSA and the GBSU did not turn up at the meeting.

NAACIE General Secretary explained that in recent weeks police have repeatedly turned down applications of unions to hold meetings. (The PPP was also denied permission to hold public meetings at Linden for 'security reasons.') The permission for the Thursday meeting was given the day before although application was made well in advance.

High-Handed

The representative of GMWU outlined the background to the six weeks strike in the bauxite industry and the recent spate of retrenchments which has resulted in 1,500 workers in the industry being sacked in a two-weeks exercise. He exposed the high-handed manner in which Guymine carried out discussions with the Union and the arbitrary manner of the retrenchment exercise in which leading union officials were also sacked. The Union has requested their reinstatement.

GMWU's Lincoln Lewis rebutted claims by government officials that retrenchment benefits have been paid to those dismissed. He said this is not so and said that the company explained that a computer fault resulted in the non-payment.

GAWU representative James Dastajir reiterated his Union's solidarity with the bauxite workers. He outlined the labour situation in the country and the present hardships of the Guyanese people due to lack of jobs, food, democracy and the high cost of living. He said the GAWU will always be in the forefront of the struggle of the workers. He criticised other unions for not giving the necessary leadership to workers for them to defend their rights.

Unpopular Government

CCWU President Gordon Todd said that when a government does not heed the cries of the people for bread then that government is unpopular. In explaining the present situation he said that the Guyanese workers are worse off than workers elsewhere in the Caribbean.

It has been disclosed that the Swedish miners have expressed their solidarity with the sacked bauxite workers.

In the meantime, unions are preparing motions and addresses for the upcoming TUC Conference.

Some of the motions already submitted deal with increased wages, cost of living allowance, availability and proper distribution of essential food-stuffs, more effective transportation services, regular and adequate supplies of drugs, dismissals by the government, collective bargaining; cost-of-living and human rights.

The Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union has submitted a motion seeking to debar government ministers and parliamentary secretaries from holding positions in the TUC Executive whose presence in the past has led to 'pro-government' decisions.

In another motion, the CCWU is calling on the government to publish the nature of the present crisis and specific measures being taken to bring relief to the people. The PSU in a motion said that agreements have been breached by the government and has called on the TUC to remind the government 'to honour agreements reached....'

PPP Open Letter

Georgetown MIRROR in English 25 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Dear Delegates and Observers,

The 30th Annual Conference of the TUC takes place at a very crucial moment in the history of the Guyanese working people's struggle for peace, freedom

and bread. As delegates, you have a special responsibility to ensure that this Conference does not merely go through the usual practice of passing resolutions, which in the past have been largely ignored by the government.

You have a duty to the workers to ensure that resolutions are implemented. In 1978, a Special TUC Conference passed a resolution calling for a political solution. But the General Secretary later reported that, on the TUC's representations to the Constituent Assembly, not one iota of its proposals had been accepted. At the end of the same year, a decision was taken to call a general strike, but the decision was not implemented. And the TUC supported the Referendum to postpone the elections.

In 1979, the government bare-facedly not only refused to implement the \$14 daily minimum wage it had agreed with the TUC to pay, but also stopped the payments of increments. And nothing was done.

In 1980, as in previous general elections, the TUC endorsed the PNC. In 1981, the government persuaded the TUC to drop its demand for a 25 per cent increase on the ground that such an increase would result in the dismissal of 17,000 workers. But in 1982, it proceeded to dismiss over 6,000 workers.

Since late 1982, some action has been forthcoming from the TUC. It passed a resolution in opposition to the 13 per cent increase in electricity charges, and mounted a demonstration in Georgetown on behalf of the suffering workers. And in May 1983, at the time when the bauxite workers were striking one-day-a-week for food, the Special Conference of the TUC:

- 1) supported the strike;
- 2) condemned the police for arresting union leaders for an alleged illegal demonstration;
- 3) passed a resolution calling on the government to import food, including flour and split peas, and to take positive action if the government failed to do so;
- 4) opposed the new IMF proposals, including devaluation and a wage freeze.

Regrettably, the TUC Executive, on a split vote, failed to support the bauxite workers' 6-week strike against Guymine's imposition of a 3-day work week. No doubt this decision emboldened the employers to dismiss over 1,700 bauxite workers.

The time has come for unity and action. The situation is rapidly deteriorating. In early 1983, the TUC General Secretary Joseph Pollydore pointed out that conditions had become unbearable, that the worker could afford only one meal a day and his child was going to school with only tea in the morning.

In February 1982, a TUC Technical Committee pointed out that in 1981 the worker earned after tax \$250 per month but his family budget for 4 needed

\$654; and in a second Report in July 1982, it stated that living standards deteriorated by 24 per cent in the period January 1981-July 1982, and the minimum daily wage should have been \$29.70 instead of \$12.71. Over a year later, the minimum wage is still \$12.71 despite increased taxation and escalation in the cost of living. And greater burdens are in store for the workers.

The PPP urges the delegates to ensure that the TUC Annual Conference take a firm stand. The new IMF package is a weapon against the working people and should be opposed. In 1978, our warnings about the IMF were not heeded. Now even the PNC's NEW NATION has deemed the IMF proposals as "a recipe for riot." They will mean not only a further drastic reduction in living standards, but also a change in direction from the present state, bureaucratic, co-operative and parasitic capitalism, which is masquerading as socialism, to dependent free enterprise capitalism which has led to distorted economies and under-development, backwardness, unemployment and hunger in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Under the present regime, Guyana is sinking deeper and deeper with every passing year into an economic quagmire. The alternative is not a dependent, distorted capitalist, but a democratic, anti-imperialist and socialist-oriented, course.

The government must provide food, money and jobs or get out! We urge you to call for a re-distribution of the national income in favour of the working people, what in 1970 the government had deemed "re-distributive justice."

The PPP has repeatedly stated, and we repeat now: there can be no solution to the economic and social crisis without a solution to the political crisis. At its Congress in 1982, it not only pinpointed the roots of the present crisis, but also set out proposals for a solution (see pp 31-37 of booklet Strengthen the Party, Defend the Masses, Liberate Guyana).

The PPP holds the view that only a broad-based National Patriotic Front Government of all democratic, progressive and revolutionary forces can save Guyana. The TUC at its Special Conference in 1978 had called for a political solution. Now, more than ever, the TUC must fight for the implementation of that decision.

Assessment of Union Problems

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Sep 83 p 4

[Article by Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Monday (CANA)--The Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC) opens its annual conference here this week amid clear signs of dissatisfaction among six of its most powerful affiliates over the kind of representation being provided by the umbrella organisation.

A serious foreign exchange shortage has placed Guyana in dire economic straits and workers are feeling the squeeze in various form--lay-offs, food shortages, cuts in social services and the like.

It's against this background that the six powerful TUC affiliates feel that the leadership of the organisation can do better to defend the workers.

The militant clerical and commercial workers union (CCWU), the opposition-linked Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU), the National Association of Agriculture, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), the University of Guyana Staff Association (UGSA), the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU), and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union (GBSU) together make up more than half the TUC's strength.

Along with their charge of inadequate representation, the union feels it's about time something is done by the TUC to remove the two government ministers who sit on its executive council. The present arrangement, they contend, only allows for political manipulation.

Besides having to deal with these issues, the TUC conference, opening on Tuesday, is expected to focus predominantly on the declining state of the Guyana economy with its chronic foreign exchange shortage, rising rate of unemployment, inadequate wages, an upsurge in crime, and a shortage of several food items.

More than 400 delegates drawn from the 23 TUC affiliates are expected to attend the meeting, as well as overseas observers from the United States, Britain, Cuba, the Soviet Union, and Guyana's Caribbean neighbours.

Indications that all is not well within the TUC came to a head with the recent resignation of executive council member, F. Nicholson, who afterwards levelled some stinging charges against the TUC leadership.

The National Union of Public Service Employees (NUPSE) representative accused the TUC top brass of not protecting and defending "the interest of the working people." Nicholson also charged that they had "long ceased to be genuine representatives of the working class."

Thousands of Guyanese workers have been laid off because of the present economic crisis, the latest being 1,721 from the key bauxite sector and 139 from the rice industry, another important revenue earning industry. Coupled with this, several factories have ceased operations because of the unavailability of raw materials.

More than 4,000 bauxite workers staged a crippling four-week strike in June-July to protest the food situation, and the decision of the Guyana mining enterprise (GUYMINE) to cut two days off its five-day work week. GUYMINE said the measure was intended to keep the industry afloat in view of a drop in demand for bauxite, with a subsequent loss in revenue.

The workers won a battle in getting GUYMINE to reintroduce a five-day work week, but they failed in getting the authorities to lift the importation ban on split peas, wheat flour, cooking oil, and milk which government says it cannot afford the foreign exchange to purchase.

Now, with the plan in motion to retrench the 1,721 workers of GUYMINE's 6,000 labour force, the two bauxite unions say it's a case of victimisation, and so they have accused the TUC of doing nothing to protect the welfare of its members.

Green's Opening Address

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Sep 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] Vice-President, Production Cde Hamilton Green last night called on affiliates of the Guyana Trades' Union Congress to join with government in what he called 'operation fight back' an exercise aimed at dealing effectively with the challenges now facing the country.

Declaring open the 30th Annual Delegates' Conference of the TUC at the Critchlow Labour College, Vice-President Green made four recommendations to the labour movement which he felt were appropriate at this time.

Firstly he called on the movement to help maintain a healthy industrial climate in the country without subordinating the rights of workers.

Secondly he said that trade unions should be better organised and thirdly that there should be more collaboration among the unions within the movement. He remarked that Guyana was more fortunate than some other Caribbean countries in that it had a TUC that was a real umbrella organisation of unions in the country.

Cde. Green's fourth recommendation was that the labour movement should accelerate its programme of education to be in a better position to resist would-be destabilisers.

"Knowledge must be behind our action...armed with knowledge we would have the power to start 'operation fight back'...." he remarked.

The former Minister of Labour declared that at a time like this when unions were faced with issues that threaten the stability, not only of unions but the movement as a whole, there was need for collective action.

Stressing the need for education Cde. Green said that for the movement to deal with the challenges it would have to know what those challenges were. He explained that the challenges had to do with the way in which the world economy was organised and the efforts of some countries to keep developing countries like Guyana in poverty.

Vice-President Green told the local and overseas delegates and the diplomats at the conference opening that Guyana had joined with other countries in calling for a new world economic order.

He noted that the external debts of developing countries had now reached \$550 billion, adding that this was due to the poor prices which these countries were getting for their primary products.

Cde. Green recalled that eight years ago Guyana's sugar sold for between 350 pounds sterling to 600 pounds sterling per ton but last year sugar prices had dropped to 78 pounds sterling per ton although production costs had spiralled.

The conference continues today and ends on Sunday after the consideration of 51 motions.

Boycott by Unions

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 28 Sep 83 p 9

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Tuesday (CANA)--Six trade unions, together constituting more than half the strength of the Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC), have decided to boycott the umbrella organisation's annual conference opening here today, union officials said.

The unions are the opposition-linked Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU), the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU), the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union (GBSU), the Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU) and the University of Guyana Staff Association (UGSA).

The move by the six powerful TUC affiliates is to protest the TUC's decision to invite Guyana's vice-president, Hamilton Green, to address the opening session of the conference, the officials said.

Former secretary-treasurer of the Barbados-based Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), Burns Bonadie, was invited to deliver the opening address but, Bonadie, now acting Minister of Home Affairs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines Government, turned down the offer.

Clash of Interests

Georgetown MIRROR in English 2 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] Heavy picketing by militant workers and stage-managed counter-picketing by the ruling People's National Congress heralded the start of the 39th Annual Delegates Conference of the Guyana Trades Union Congress.

The clash of interests just before the start on Tuesday evening and the conspicuous absence of the majority of delegates to listen to the formal opening by Vice-President, Agriculture, Hamilton Green raised tempers which pervaded the deliberations during the following days.

The PNC engineered a take-over of the TUC hall. The Presidium at the opening included TUC General Secretary, J. Pollydore and President S. Walker,

sandwiched between Hamilton Green, Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid, and Man-power Minister, Kenneth Denny, who happens to be an official delegate to the Conference under the Association of Masters and Mistresses.

Scores of government and PNC officials, senior public servants, and a minority of delegates packed the hall. Six unions, the GAWU, CCWU, UGSA, NAACIE, GBSU and GMWU boycotted the opening. Silently, however, most others stayed away when they learnt that the opening was not going to be done by former General Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress, Burns Bonadie as was scheduled.

Mohammed Sallahuddin, Minister of Finance is also a delegate from the pro-government Guyana Teachers Association while Parliamentary Secretary, A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, Chief Political Advisor to Executive President, Forbes Burnham, Elvin McDavid, and former Fisheries Minister, Robert Williams, are all delegates from the Guyana Labour Union.

A storm broke out the following day, Wednesday, as the first business session began providing further evidence of the emasculation of that umbrella body. A motion from Minister Sallahuddin, supported by pro-government unions, sought to unseat unions which had not paid their dues. (The TUC is in a financial crisis as the government cut substantially its contribution to the TUC which formerly received support from the anti-communist AIFLD, whose representative was invited to Conference. Moves are afoot to again seek funds from AIFLD. The anti-communist, right-wing social democratic FES, based in West Germany, also sent a representative.)

The better part of two days was spent in petty rangling over the attempt to throw out the defaulting unions. In a clear attack against those attempting to do so J. Pollydore said the matter was a simple one and that those who complicate it are not interested in the business of the Conference. The matter caused the adjournment of the house on several occasions and at one point on Wednesday, 1st Vice-President, George Daniels, walked off from the head table in disgust.

Thursday evening, the harassed Treasurer and convenor of the Credentials Committee, Selwyn Felix, reported that all the Unions had paid and were properly seated. However, this was after eight unions staged a dramatic walk out of the conference when it was finally put to the house for the removal of the Guyana Mine Workers' Union. The Bauxite Union had earlier stated that due to the six-week strike they could not have fulfilled their financial obligations.

The unions that walked out were the GAWU, CCWU, NAACIE, GMWU, NUPSE, GBSU, PSU and UGSA. These unions have a majority of 102 delegates. The 14 unions that remained had 90 votes out of which 89 cast in favour of the removal of GMWU with one abstention. The leaders of the eight unions met separately and later decided to enter the hall after the defaulting unions paid up.

In the meanwhile the Conference continued. Previously, in between the heated debates, President S. Walker delivered his report which drew no discussion. Neither did the minutes and the standing orders. As the noise abated, and with the Conference hall half empty, General Secretary, Joseph Pollydore, delivered his report. The discussion on the report was fixed for Friday morning.

In making introductory remarks before the official report, the General Secretary said that the disaffiliation of members from the TUC would have "political implications" and that "in our present economic system they cannot do much...." The General Secretary was obviously referring to what has become a block of militant unions and rumours that these would break away and form a parallel trade union body.

Other matters fixed for the TUC Conference include reports from the Treasurer, from fourteen specialised committees of the TUC and proposed amendments to the TUC Constitution. It is believed that due to the considerable time lost in the beginning of the Conference there would be little time to deal with all the matters, especially Constitutional amendments.

Earlier in the year, a special conference was called to look into the amendments but was adjourned without resolving the matter. The last TUC Conference elected a TUC Executive which excluded some of the largest unions and moves are afoot to correct this situation. Observers feel that the filibustering of pro-PNC unions is aimed at wasting time so that Conference cannot deal with constitutional amendments, the last item of the agenda.

CSO: 3298/108

FARMING IN SPOTLIGHT AS CONTROVERSY OVER FOOD CONTINUES

Beri-Beri, Malnutrition Charges

Georgetown MIRROR in English 18 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] While PNC spokesmen in the National Assembly strongly denied charges by PPP Opposition speaker Narbada Persaud that there were many cases of Beri-Beri in Guyana, recent statistics from the Public Hospital Georgetown confirm that many cases have been admitted. The charges of Beri-Beri were raised during a debate on a motion by the Opposition PPP calling for renewed imports of flour, split peas and other essential foods. It was pointed out, in the debate, that many persons were now suffering from various forms of malnutrition, Beri-Beri being one.

Latest figures for admissions to the Public Hospital Georgetown (PHG) show that there were 141 cases of Beri-Beri, 26 being women and 115, men. Included in the cases were 41 prisoners, plus 20 from the interior, 29 from Georgetown, 28 from East Coast, Demerara, 14 from East Bank, Demerara and 9 from West Coast, Demerara.

During the past year 214 cases of malnutrition among children were admitted to the PHG. In the Malnutrition Units of the Children's section of the Georgetown Hospital there are 2-3 children in one cot. As a result of a continuing shortage of milk, even to the Malnutrition Units, children have been given skim milk, which has produced diarrhoea, further exacerbating the condition of malnutrition. There are also reports of an increase in the death rate in the Pediatric (children's) unit.

Meanwhile, reports say that there is an increase in admissions of patients suffering from tuberculosis at the Best Hospital. TB, which had been at one time on the decline, is now rising. Doctors confirm that poverty, slum housing and malnutrition can lead to a greater incidence of tuberculosis.

Youth Movement Resolution

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 19 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] "And whereas there is not a sufficient supply of drugs and food items including wheaten flour, split peas, cheese, etc to the people of Guyana, and the forceful denial of people of food of their choice has led

to widespread malnutrition and starvation among the working people and whereas this condition has demoralised the workers of Guyana and led to low production and productivity and has led to a large scale exodus of skilled Guyanese.

"Be it resolved that we the participants of this National Youth Seminar of the Guyana Trade Union Youth Movement call on the government to make available drugs and food including the above mentioned items in sufficient quantities for the Guyanese people."

The motion was carried. Although the seminar received a fair deal of publicity in the state media, the motion did not. The mover of the motion was dismissed from the workforce.

Minister's Remarks

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 25 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] There must be planning by the Government for urban and interior farmers in the same way as there is planning for rural farmers, Minister Sallahuddin told a group of farmers from Georgetown yesterday.

This statement was made by the Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture while he was speaking of the efforts to secure a second international loan for the food-crop programme of the Ministry. While noting that the first loan of \$3 US million served hundreds of farmers, he said that his Ministry was objecting to a request by the lending agency that the money be spent on rural farmers. He stated that the target group must include urban and interior farmers.

If negotiations are successful, the money will be filtered to farmers through the Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank. Cde Sallahuddin spoke of an "element of relief" in borrowing from that bank, and said that in Guyana a farmer is a farmer and should enjoy equal facilities.

The occasion for the Minister's remarks was the closing of an urban farmers course at the Guyana School of Agriculture. Thirty-two persons from Georgetown had spent five days at Mon Repos being taught the basic skills in cultivation techniques and preservation of produce. By the end of the programme, participants were able to make pumpkin jam, all purpose sauce, creole sauce, dried carambola, preserved caramabola, powdered sweet basil, and flaked sweet basil.

Cde Sallahuddin told the gathering that 83 acres in Georgetown were good for cultivation, and urged them to take up the challenge. He said that the Ministry of Agriculture wants to give assistance to those willing to cultivate lands in the city. He spoke of the view of the Ministry that agricultural extension work is equally important in Georgetown, and to put this belief into practice, extension officers have been allocated responsibility to sectors of the city.

He commended the participants for successfully completing the course and called for another such one but with more farmers belonging to the Rastafarian group. He noted that many members of this group are among the best urban farmers.

Blackeye Pea Crop

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] The Guyana National Service is now harvesting a bumper crop of about a quarter of a million pounds of blackeye peas which agriculture sources believe can make a substantial impact on the national annual need.

"It's not our biggest crop since we started planting blackeye but it is a fairly good crop," Deputy Director-General Charwin Burnham confirmed modestly.

Distribution of the blackeye reaped from the Kimbia cultivation in the Berbice River has already begun and the first priority is an allocation of about 70,000 pounds to the Cerex programme.

Cerex was recently put back on the market with more local ingredients being used in its preparation.

Other Disciplined Services will also get allocations from the GNS and the remainder of the crop will be supplied to Guyana National Trading Corporation, Guyana Stores Limited and Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation retail outlets.

News of the big blackeye crop has come as the GNS is celebrating its ninth anniversary. Activities began with Sunday's church service and will climax with an exhibition to be opened by President Forbes Burnham.

Some of the blackeye is likely to be exhibited at the GNS Carifesta Avenue Sports Complex where the big event is being staged Friday.

Blackeye has been identified as one of the main crops that will help meet the nation's legume self-sufficiency drive.

Flour Stocks

Georgetown MIRROR in English 25 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Guyana at present is virtually saturated with wheat flour, despite the "restrictions" placed by the PNC regime on the importation of this commodity. Besides quantities due to large scale smuggling across the frontiers, huge stocks are arriving through legal channels as gifts from various international charities. These stocks the regime is converting into biscuits, which however are being sold at fantastic prices in the retail market.

Dockside sources say that at present there are 14,000 bags of flour in Guyana, which should be added to the 10,000 bags already distributed for 1983. Further shipments are due.

According to the sources, 5,000 bags of wheat flour arrived from the EEC last week and are now in the bonds of the Guyana National Trading Corporation. Prior to this shipment another 5,000 bags had arrived from the World Food Programme (WFP). A further consignment of 8,000 fifty-pound sacks from the WFP had also arrived, this time as a shipment from the USA. This shipment of 50 lb sacks is still in the bonds, and has been there for over one month.

A consignment of 1,800 bags from the WFP which had also arrived, has already been distributed to the two biscuit factories operating in Georgetown. Each factory got 900 bags.

Government is determined not to allow this wheat flour to be baked into bread, and has instructed that it should be turned into biscuits, albeit mixed with rice flour. The bread which is now available on the pavements (at \$5 per 4 oz loaf) is made with uncustomed flour. Every now and then the police would raid these bread vendors and seize their goods.

The dockside sources further said that other free goods have also arrived in port. These have been identified as a WFP product made of "corn, soya and wheat" which is still in bond. A huge consignment of milk from Trinidad (Free-co) has also arrived. It amounts to 10,000 cartons and is equal to 24,000 one pound tins. However this milk is ostensibly being held for emergency use for "pregnant mothers and convalescing cases." Not a single tin has reached the open market as yet. A part of this stock was sent up to Linden on Wednesday.

In fact no milk is available in state outlets and leading super-markets. Even on the pavement where profiteers abound, this commodity is in short supply. A one-lb tin of powdered milk is retailing on the pavement for \$50.

MIRROR understands that officials of Guyana Stores and other state officials have been in Canada recently negotiating for a substantial shipment of powdered milk. This stock is expected to arrive in Georgetown by October next provided the agreement is finalised in time for it to be loaded aboard the Saguenay cargo ship, which makes monthly trips to this region. The milk expected is "Canada Best."

Slumping Sugar Output

Georgetown MIRROR in English 25 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Sugar production continues to be behind target, despite a satisfactory change in the weather. It is apparent that not enough canes are arriving at the sugar mills, which is a source of worry for Guysuco. In a press release the sugar corporation said:

"Although some factories have appeared to settle down, there is still need for a more regular supply of canes to sugar factories so as to enable better throughput and also permit a better assessment of the general efficiencies of factories."

Production over the past week stood at 8,300 tons, while the target was 10,830 tons. The production for the year now totals 139,650 tons, while the target is 285,000 tons. This means that 145,350 tons remain to be harvested. So far therefore only 49 per cent of the year's target has been achieved. The 1982 target was 335,000 tons.

MIRROR understands that the estates are still being hit by heavy down-time, lack of canes, shortage of cane cutters, etc. Up to August 6, 1983 only 7 factories were operating while LBI, Uitvlugt and Leonora also failed to commence operations on schedule.

During the recent heavy rainfall period, Guysuco said this was the "principal factor against increasing output on all grinding estates, some of which suffered because of flood conditions."

Up to August 27, Guysuco continued to bewail 'flood conditions' for their adverse impact on burning, harvesting and transportation of canes at Guysuco's production units, causing periodic stoppages as a result of frequent out-of-caness intervals.

In its 1982 annual report, Guysuco says that industrial relations have been 'relatively stable' throughout the year. There were 114,126 mandays lost in 1982 through strikes and stoppages of work, compared to 139,008 mandays lost in 1981. The result was a loss of earnings to workers amounting to \$2.8 million compared to \$2.7 million in 1981. Of the total mandays lost in 1982, 32,083 were in connection with non-industrial strikes Guysuco alleges.

The Corporation in its report confessed that it reached no agreement with the recognised unions for annual production bonus in 1982 and as such imposed 6 days' pay for a production of 280,000 tons, on the condition that should production exceed 287,000 tons, the award would be 7 days' pay. The industry achieved 287,725 tons sugar for the year 1982.

The number of employees on its payroll amounted to 28,077 in 1982 compared to 31,374 in 1981 and 31,128 in 1980. These statistics clearly show that the sugar corporation retrenched 3,297 workers between 1981-1982.

This large scale sacking is one of the major reasons why husbandry, crop maintenance, etc., are not up to standard.

Stress on Urban Agriculture

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 2 Oct 83 pp 4, 5

[Text] One of the exercises this month involving the nation will be the emphasis on urban and interior agriculture. Despite the vast potential for agriculture in the Hinterland, the results have been far from encouraging.

Hinterland communities, although having within their grasp the fertile lands to produce food, still look to the coastland for substantial supplies. Logging and mining concerns contribute to this trend by not being engaged in producing food which would be cheaper for their employees.

Significantly, there are several interior communities, that are almost self-sufficient in food production. The Mahdia area is a good example of self-reliance. Many of those producers migrated from sister countries in the Caribbean.

The case of urban agriculture is even more significant. During the last World War when imported food supplies became scarce and costly, there was a successful "Grow More Food" campaign organised by the colonial government.

Overnight virtually everyone became a farmer and thousands of urban yards--boxes, tins and drums included--produced good, nutritious fresh foods.

Today there are half-hearted attempts to produce food in the urban areas.

A look at the situation indicates that there are two types of farming in the urban areas--at the commercial level and the subsistence level. A significant amount of farming is done at the commercial level in Campbellville, Kitty, South Ruimveldt and on the old railway embankment.

At the subsistence level, many residents grow token beds of vegetables, pigeon peas, peppers, bananas, vine crops and so on.

Several residents hold the view that green vegetables are "cheap enough" when compared to other countries in the Caribbean. Most of these supplies come from the rural areas.

Agricultural planners take a different view. They feel that every area should contribute to the national production, aiming at self-reliance in as many areas as possible.

This would result in higher production and more 'equitable' distribution, causing prices to lower even further.

The maxim enunciated by the Vice-President responsible for Agriculture, Hamilton Green, is even more important now than it was: "When we speak of self-reliance, we mean an individual programme, a family programme--a national programme; we mean that individuals, families....must make a conscious effort to grow a little food in their backyards....rear a few fowls..."

RICE BOARD OFFICIAL DUNDAS DEFENDS GRADING SYSTEM

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 18 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

GUYANA Rice Board General Manager Leon Dundas has denied allegations from rice farmers that the GRB's grading system is unfair to them.

The General Manager disclosed Wednesday that statistics from the GRB's East Berbice division reveal that a high percentage of farmers received high grades for rice sold at the Board since July.

Cde Dundas explained that rice is graded in this country according to set standards which are consistent throughout the rice belt. He said two like sets of samples should receive the same grades if taken from different parts of the country and examined by two different graders.

Figures from GRB Corriverton installation show that in July farmers sold a total of 232 bags of parboiled rice to the Board and 73 per cent of them received the two highest grades, Extra No. 1 and No. 1, for their rice. During the same month 1 265 bags

of white rice were sold to the GRB in that region and 80 per cent were graded among the top three grades.

Likewise in August out of 430 bags of parboiled rice sold to the GRB 80 per cent received top quality grades and 90 per cent of the 653 bags of the white got White A and White B grades. Up to September 8, farmers sold 590 bags of parboiled rice and 1 174 bags of white rice to the board.

Ninety-five per cent of the white rice received Extra White A, White A, and White B grades.

Meanwhile, Cde Dundas said that since the recent introduction of incentives to farmers more rice is being sold to the board.

He admitted that despite this increase, a portion of the rice is still being smuggled out of the country. Recently six truckloads of rice were seized on the foreshore along the East Coast, he said. The total amount to some 607 bags of both parboiled and white rice.

(GNA)

RICE EXPORTING TO BE AIDED BY NEW WHARF FACILITIES

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

..A NEW wharf to be constructed for the Guyana Rice Board is expected to save the Corporation several thousand dollars in operational costs and improve its export facilities.

..The project undertaken at a cost of \$5.2 million will start at month-end. The contract, awarded to Guybridge Construction was signed last Tuesday.

The first phase of the project includes the construction of a quay and gangway, the second will cater for the building of a warehouse and the third phase for storage bonds.

This new facility will replace a wharf which was destroyed by fire in 1977, causing the GRB the loss of thousands of dollars in equipment and property.

..A present make-shift arrangement, an official source disclosed, allows only small vessels to load rice at the former GRB Georgetown wharf. The new wharf will accommodate several large vessels at a time the official said.

..The GRB now ships rice overseas from Adventure on the Essequibo Coast and Springlands in the Berbice Region in addition to Port Georgetown.

Meanwhile, GRB officials expect a marked increase in paddy production for this crop, as indicated by the pile-up of paddy at installations throughout the rice belt.

Reports from the Essequibo, West Demerara and Berbice areas say that there is an unusually large build-up of paddy moving from the fields to factories, causing bottlenecks in the intake systems.

GRB General Manager Leon Dandas disclosed that incentives now being offered to farmers for top quality paddy and rice have been responsible for an increase in intakes by the Board.

The GRB is going all out in an effort to satisfy increasing overseas markets in the Caribbean and Europe.

(GNA)

PERSONNEL CHANGES ANNOUNCED FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Sep 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

..HEAD of the Presidential Secretariat Cecil Douglas has been appointed to head two statutory committees concerned with the sugar industry.

..Cde Douglas will serve for the next two years as Chairman of both the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund (SILWF) and the Price Stabilisation and Rehabilitation Fund Committees.

..Other members of the SILWF include Cde M. Griffith, Chief Housing Policy, Planning and Research Officer in the Ministry of Health and Public Welfare, Cdes Ian McDonald, A. B. Felix and W. R. Gainall are nominees of Guysuco while Cdes J. Persaud, S. Critchlow and N. K. Gopaul are the nominees of the trade unions concerned in the welfare of labour workers in the

industry. Cde Shivprasad will represent the National Cane Farming Committee.

The other public officer on the Stabilisation and Rehabilitation Fund is Cde M. S. Bharose, Principal Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

Guysuco nominees to this committee are W. E. H. Tyrell, Carl Sylvester, E.O. Hanoman and H. Singh.

..The trade unions in the industry will be represented by James Destajir, Cleveland Charran and Hanoman Mohabir.

..Cde Shivprasad will also represent the Cane Farming Committee on the Stabilisation and Rehabilitation Fund.

Members of the National Cane Farming Committee have also been named for the period October 1, 1983 to September 30, 1985.

Eight of them — Shivprasad, Harris Seepersaud, John Ramsessar, Walter Beepat, R. Melville, A. Young, N. Sukul and W. Cambridge — were chosen by the Liaison Committee on the sugar estates.

Three representatives of Guysuco — B. Chandra, N. Hamid and E.O.S. Hanoman are also named to the Cane Farming Committee.

The five official members are M. L. Persaud, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, P. D. Sookraj, Chief Agricultural Planner (ag.) and I. Umadat, Assistant Chief Hydraulics Officer (ag) also of the Ministry of Agriculture, M. Edghill, Chief Co-operatives Development Officer and M. Brown Principal Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Development.

Cde K. Hunt, Senior Manager, Loans Administration will represent Gaibank on the committee.

CSO: 3298/110

REID: ECONOMIC CRISIS PROVIDES CHANCE TO PUSH DEVELOPMENT

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 2 Oct 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid yesterday told residents of Essequibo that the present economic crisis is giving the nation an opportunity to develop itself and Guyanese should not let this opportunity pass by.

In an address centred on the theme "Food Self-sufficiency and Independence," the Prime Minister warned of the perils of depending on outsiders for food. "Be careful when you are eating the other man's food," he advised.

Dr. Reid was then delivering the feature address at the handing-over ceremony of the Tapacuma Irrigation Project in the Anna Regina market square. This ceremony was the major rally launching Agriculture Month 1983. Vice-President, Production, Cde. Hamilton Green officially handed over responsibility for the project to Region Two Chairman, Cde. Rupert Hopkinson and the people of Essequibo.

The Prime Minister spoke to the gathering of farmers, Regional officials, and other residents for an hour during which time he touched on the many issues relative to national agricultural development.

He said that there were two types of development: genuine development and dependent development. He observed that since the time of national political independence in 1966 Guyana has been seeking genuine independence. But, he noted that in this pursuit, three issues must be considered: the vast natural resources of this country and their potential, the need to put those resources to good use, and spreading the word of the good use of the resources so the people will be aware.

He said that the Agriculture Month programme should help the nation to better identify its resources and put them to good use. Cde. Reid said that Guyana has a relatively small population compared to its land size, and is blessed with natural elements like water and sunshine, hence in this country there are all the resources for agricultural development.

He reflected that while the former colonial masters had Guyanese growing sugarcane the people were told that locally-produced food was no good. He said that the colonials did their jobs well because up to today many Guyanese still believe that they cannot live without imported food.

Speaking on a stage decked with the many vegetables abundantly available in Guyana, the Prime Minister, himself a veterinarian and practising farmer, reminded the gathering that the white potato plant was first transported from this part of the world to the developed countries.

Cde. Reid spoke of an American committee report claiming that the world needed to get rid of two billion people before it would be in a position to feed itself. He said that the committee decided that it was impossible to feed the world with its present population and that the excess people were from the developing countries, a grouping in which Guyana falls.

"We in Guyana should ensure that we are not caught by not having food," he warned.

He said that the world is organised against the poor, therefore Guyanese must always be vigilant. To further emphasise this point he gave examples of cases in which the rich ensured that the other people of the world cultivated crops for the benefit of the rich through manipulation of prices offered for produce. He advised that it is important that Guyanese have strong wills.

The Prime Minister stated that Agriculture Month has as one of its functions to ensure that agriculture is made attractive to professionals, communities, and people of all walks of life.

He recalled a statement by President Forbes Burnham saying that every person should see himself as a little farmer if not a big one.

He said that agriculture is now taking its proper place thereby allowing children to come to terms with work at an early stage.

Cde. Reid observed that some people refused agricultural work because they are undisciplined, and warned that nature does not tolerate idleness and indiscipline.

CSO: 3298/110

GNS ANNIVERSARY: INSTRUMENT FOR DEVELOPING RESOURCES

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Oct 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham said last night that the Guyana National Service is Government's gift to the people of Guyana.

The President in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Disciplined Services was addressing the G.N.S. Ninth Anniversary Celebrations Art and Craft Exhibition when he added.

"It is an instrument which you can use not only for moulding a closely-knit society and nation but also as an instrument for the development of the resources of this country for the benefit of the people of this country."

Speaking about the achievements of the G.N.S. President Burnham noted that the G.N.S. had been producing quite effectively, and declared that the items exhibited were an indication of what the organisation was doing in the field of production and

productivity. Addressing his remarks to the people who make up the service he said that they were a body of men and women -- young chronologically, young in vigour, imagination, dedication and com-

mitment.

According to the President, the G.N.S. brings together people of various experiences, and also educates, with the emphasis on teaching people how to make a living. The GNS imparts certain basic skills, especially to disadvantaged sections of the community.

The President who was taken on a tour of the booths before addressing the gathering invited those present to visit places like the New Opportunity Corps at Onderneeming, where they would see young men and women who, having been rehabilitated and trained, were able to produce many of the fine exhibits on show.

The President made reference to black eye peas, margarine and edible oil, fabrics and even gold jewellery produced by the GNS and declared that those who thought the service was not of importance should not make use of any of the commodities it produced.

"You cannot free yourself from the achievements of the G.N.S." he said. "The G.N.S. is one of the most attractive units in

the nation of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana."

"One thing the G.N.S. has realised, is the need for production: if Guyana is to survive as a nation, he added.

The GNS, the President said, was to his mind a symbol or representation of "what we shall have to do."

Observing that the G.N.S. was producing food such as ground provisions and rice flour, the President noted that some people might still be thinking about wheat flour and added: "He who is fed by another is a slave to him who feeds him".

Before his tour of the Exhibition, the President took the salute and inspected a Guard-of-Honour drawn up from members of the G.N.S.

The programme had as its highlight, a cultural presentation by seven pioneers, representing the different centres in the country.

The Agriculture Booth drew the most attraction with bunches of bananas each weighing no less than 145 lbs.

GNS TO LAUNCH OFFICER CADET PROGRAM TO WOO SKILLED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

THE Guyana National Service will start an Officer Cadet Scheme later this year aimed at wooing skilled and professionally qualified persons into the Service.

This was disclosed yesterday by Director General Joe Singh while addressing University of Guyana students in the U.G.'s Large Lecture Theatre. He was at the time bringing students up to date with career opportunities available within the GNS.

The Director General remarked that the Scheme would be of particular interest to U.G. students especially those who would have to do one-year stints.

He explained that those interested in the Scheme could spend their one

year undergoing training as Officer Cadets and return to the University with the rank of Second Lieutenant to complete their studies.

OFFICER

After graduating the Officer Cadets would be entitled to enter the GNS with an officer rank, Cde. Singh said.

He pointed out that a university degree did not automatically entitle one to an officer rank. He said that training was necessary for such a position to be achieved within the Service.

AGRICULTURE

The Director General explained that the GNS was now involved in a number of areas that required skilled per-

sonnel. These areas included agriculture, quarrying, mining, printing and training, he added.

Cde. Singh explained that the GNS was presently supplying 70 per cent of the country's stone needs and needed skilled persons in this area.

STUDENTS

He mentioned also that the National Service this year would be reaping 300,000 pounds of blackeye peas.

During a visit to Port Kaituma earlier this month Cde. Singh met Guyana School of Agriculture students who had just completed their two-month stint, and informed them of career opportunities within the Service.

CSO: 3298/110

PLAN TO REVAMP BAUXITE INDUSTRY; JOB SITUATION NOTED

Job Opportunities for Retrenched

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Bauxite Industry Placement Committee, set up to assist in finding alternative employment for retrenched Guymine employees, said it is in a position to put several hundred persons in jobs.

But response from the laid-off workers has been very poor, a spokesman for the committee disclosed yesterday.

Spokesman Herbie Hoyte said that of 1200 questionnaires distributed in the bauxite communities, only 32 have been returned to the committee.

Of these, the committee has submitted 15 placement requests to state corporations and government departments. While only four applicants are certain of employment so far, the others will be determined by their successes at various trade tests and interviews, Cde Hoyte said.

Considering the retrenched persons are Guyana National Engineering Corporation, Guyana Electricity Corporation, Guyana Pharmaceutical

Corporation, Guysuco and the Inland Revenue Department.

Cde Hoyte said he was optimistic about placing the remainder of the 32 very soon.

Earlier, Chairman of the Committee Oscar Moore said despite assurances given the workers through their unions, persons were reluctant to approach the committee.

On a visit to Everton recently, Cde Moore said no one turned up to be interviewed.

He said he had assured the unions that contact with the committee or even placement in alternative employment would not result in a cessation of payments now being received.

"But the unions have refused to be represented on the committee and response from the retrenched persons has been very poor," Cde Moore said. The Chief Labour Officer said his committee plans to visit another bauxite community shortly where it will continue its work.

Reorganization Master Plan

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 2 Oct 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Guymine management is nearing completion of a programme to reorganise the bauxite industry and return it to profitability.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Dunstan Barrow told questioners on a broadcast programme last evening that "a complete master plan for the entire industry" should be ready by the end of November.

Out of the plan should come the projection as to how early the industry would break even or achieve profitability, he added.

He hinted, however, that employees were settling down after the retrenchment exercise, and production was already on the increase with tramming at the rate of 450 cars a day as compared with 300 cars a day prior to the industrial unrest at Linden.

Cde Barrow said it was hoped to average 500 cars a day by yearend and 550 cars a day early in the first quarter of next year, and that plans were afoot to increase bauxite production to about 1.3 million tons next year.

The rehabilitation of the railroad is about 80 to 85 per cent complete, derailments are down to about two per week from eight per day and work is going on to recover more from processed ore; and to pelletise dust so as to get an overall of about 30,000 tons per year more of bauxite.

About \$45 million in spares is to be purchased and discussions are going on with countries and companies to increase sales and acquire spares through counter-trade.

Cde Barrow said the immediate objective is to ensure that the company survives over the next two years and during that time to put in place a long-term plan involving general areas such as marketing, volume of production, reduction of production cost and other efficiency measures.

Cde Barrow said Guymine's marketing team was in discussion with customers in the United States and Canada, refractory manufacturers and users, who have been commenting formally on the product.

"We are hoping that quantities (ordered) will start increasing and we can take back a part of the market," he added.

Asked whether there was a market for the Guymine product, Cde Barrow said: "Everybody tells us that we have the best product so there must be a market."

The CEO explained that after the East Montgomery mine was expanded, a new kiln commissioned, and the biggest walking dragline introduced, Guymine was hoping to produce about 700,000 tons of calcine a year.

But the company was hit by a strike and afterwards the refractory users in the US said Guymine was becoming an unreliable supplier. In addition, Cde Barrow said, the Chinese "came on the scene" and some US customers also started to use an indigenous material as a replacement for Guymine bauxite.

Cde Barrow said the company also lost the stripping lead which was vital to reliability and this was the reason why Green Construction Company was recruited.

Asked whether Guymine had now overcome the stigma of an unreliable supplier, Cde Barrow said the company would have to demonstrate its reliability.

CSO: 3298/111

PNC EYES ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES, PERSONNEL GOALS

Leader-Group Ties

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Economic projects by Party groups are exercises designed to make the group useful since members would be in a position to share their skills and exchange ideas beneficial to their lives in their communities. General Secretary of the People's National Congress, Cde Ptolemy Reid has said.

Speaking to members of the Administrative Committee of the Party and to the Regional Chairmen who were present at the first meeting of that body to be held at Congress Place, Cde Reid said it is important for us to ensure that the groups become places of interest.

There is no reason why group members cannot stage demonstrations at their meeting places in their effort to assist in the drive for self-sufficiency, he said.

They could come up with new ways of dealing with such food crops as cassava and breadfruit, he added.

Cde Reid said that for the groups to be active and viable Party leaders must see working with the group as "our fundamental task."

"Unless we are close to the people at the level of the group some people will either do very little or do their own thing", he said. Being close to the group will also help the leadership minimise the incidence of mistakes at the level of the group, he added.

The Fifth Biennial Congress of the Party set the stage for a high level of performance and it is therefore imperative that this standard be maintained, he said.

District Conferences scheduled to be held before December must be patterned after Congress, Cde Reid said.

Constitutional Amendments

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

The constitution of the People's National Congress is being amended to make the Party structure more relevant to the Regional system and the other structures set up for a more efficient administration of the nation.

Perhaps the most significant amendment involves the election of the members of the Central Executive Committee and the appointment of officers of the Party.

Formerly Congress elected specific Party Officers among whom were the Chairman, Vice - Chairmen,

Treasurer, Assistant General Secretary and the Co-treasurer.

With the amendment, the Leader of the Party, who must still be elected by Congress, will assign duties to persons from among those elected to the Central Executive Committee.

Already one wayside rag has seen this move as a breach of democracy instead of as a serious effort to have the best persons function in the best capacities.

Other amendments include a definition of the role of the People's National Congress, the addition of a new 'Object' of the Party, the standardisation of the

expiry date of one's membership and the composition of the various committees.

Meanwhile proposals are being put up for the restructuring of the Party to provide for a more efficient organisation which will spearhead the nation in the fight for survival.

Membership Rules

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

Following the amendment to the constitution of the People's National Congress all membership of the Party ends on May 31 of each year. At present Party membership ends one year after a person becomes a member of the Party.

With the present situation the expiration membership varies from person to person and in many cases persons have been known to forget to renew their membership.

But the next few months are going to be important in the lives of many Party members. Lapsed membership places Party cadres at a disadvantage since they could lose their Party

entitlements.

Take the case of those employed at the Regional level of the Party. One demand is that every such employee must be a member of the Party. One clause in the new constitution on the Regional employee states "He shall automatically cease to be an employee if for any reason whatsoever, he ceases to be a member of the Party."

Every member should immediately examine his card to ascertain the date his membership expires.

PNC POLICIES DEFENDED AGAINST PPP CRITICISM

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 83 pp 4-5

[Text]

ANY individual who lives beyond his means is bound to end up in serious trouble. The same can be applied to a country.

At this time when most countries are fighting to overcome the effects of a harsh world economic crisis and when many Western lending agencies are expressing the desire to curtail further aid to the developing world many governments are calling on their peoples to be conservative and self-reliant.

Countries that once imported large quantities of goods have placed restrictions on their imports and even in the most powerful Western nations retrenchment is commonplace.

In every instance retrenchment is intended to cut down on production costs and to save a company money. As a result, many countries boast high unemployment figures.

Actually, industries in these countries were conserving on a scarce

commodity — money. The lack of money forced some large corporations to close their doors and led their employees to seek their livelihood elsewhere, if any was available.

Guyana, with a policy of employment for all, has been forced to re-examine the situation within some of its state-owned concerns in relation to staffing. In many cases these agencies were found to contain personnel who could function more meaningfully elsewhere.

Then, with our drive for self-sufficiency in agriculture, government recognised the importance of diverting some of our human potential in this area, hence the term 'proper labour placement.'

More recently the state of affairs in the world in relation to the bauxite

industry led to the decision to reduce the work force in that area.

Meanwhile the ever-vocal opposition has begun to tell its few supporters that government has adopted some measures proposed by the International Monetary Fund.

It contends that the retrenchment exercises in the various industries, locally, are mere preparations for the acceptance of the IMF conditions.

The very topsy-turvy opposition, at one time claimed that government departments and agencies were over-staffed, resulting in excessive government spending.

In fact the various cut-backs by government are in keeping with wise economic policies. One cannot afford to live beyond one's means.

PPP SCHEDULES SEMINARS TO BOOST PROPAGANDA WORK

Georgetown MIRROR in English 2 Oct 83 p 4

[Text] The People's Progressive Party (PPP) is holding a series of special Seminars throughout the country for cadres at the Group, District and Regional levels to strengthen its propaganda machinery.

A Freedom House spokesman told MIRROR that small rightist parties and groups with CIA connections have unleashed an offensive against the PPP and socialism in Guyana. "It is of utmost importance that the lies, smears, slanders, half-truths, etc., be properly repulsed by the Party at this juncture in a powerful and organised manner," the spokesman said. He added that the reactionary propaganda campaign is well orchestrated and well financed.

Recently one such well-attended Seminar was held at Freedom House at which the following topics were discussed:

Propaganda Techniques and Objectives, Distribution and Circulation of Materials, Responsibility of Party Bodies, Responses to Right-wing Slanders.

Leading the discussions were PPP Executive Committee Members Cheddi Jagan, Janet Jagan, Narbada Persaud and Clinton Collymore.

Coming out of the discussions was the need for party cadres at grass roots level to identify specific problems facing communities and interest groups, communicate these to relevant bodies of the party, and to mobilise support in problem-solving.

It was also stressed that party members must firmly defend socialism on all occasions and must reject the rightist propaganda to the effect that "socialism has failed."

The Seminar participants unanimously endorsed the view that the anti-Socialist ideological offensive by imperialism around the world, is reflected in the reactionary activities of the mini-parties in Guyana. This must be resolutely combatted by party activists in all forums and venues.

CRIME CONTINUES TO CAUSE CONCERN, CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

Crime Chief's Remarks

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 18 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] In an interview with the CATHOLIC STANDARD on Fri. Sept. 9 to which the CHRONICLE was invited, Crime Chief Skip Roberts denied that there was a general increase in crime.

There was, he said, an increase in a special type of crime in which doors were kicked down and callous brutal attacks were made on residents with guns and cutlasses.

Although the bandits often wore military uniform, there was, he said, no evidence that they were connected with the armed forces.

He agreed that 99 percent of these attacks were made on Indo-Guyanese, and explained that the robbers were after gold for use in the contraband trade and gold was kept in Indo-Guyanese homes in the form of jewellery.

Mr. Roberts claimed that most of these crimes were committed by one group of criminals, not more than eight in number who were based on the East Coast, but were very mobile and operated in gangs of three or four on the East Coast, West Coast, Mackenzie and other places.

He claimed to have arrested the nucleus of this group and expected that others would shortly be picked up.

The CATHOLIC STANDARD suggested that from the many reports received the incidence of violent crime was far more widespread, involving many more criminals than just one gang.

Recent examples were cited: the 'Ransom Group' operating on the Corentyne river and on the East Coast, the kidnappers and murderers of Shiva Singh, the robbers of the Doctors Quarters and the bandits who attacked Mr. Blaise of East La Penitence.

The Crime Chief admitted that the police were handicapped by the lack of transportation. The Court's practice of granting bail to known criminals in spite of opposition by the police have made their work more difficult.

He admitted that individual police had been guilty of offences reported by the Guyana Human Rights Association, but added that whenever instances of such behaviour were proven, the culprits were disciplined.

Mr. Roberts denied that the police were more concerned with arresting citizens and seizing vehicles with contraband flour, peas and other food items, than in fighting violent crime.

He blamed the national media for giving more prominence to the anti-smuggling campaign than to other police activity.

He also played down the suggestion that much of the police's time was given to checking on opposition political activists.

Asked what steps were being taken to protect those areas that are being terrorised by bandits, Mr. Roberts replied that patrols had been stepped up and encouragement given to the formation of citizens' groups such as vigilantes.

It was, however, he added, too dangerous to arm such groups as they might shoot at innocent citizens moving into their areas at night.

CATHOLIC STANDARD Comments

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 18 Sep 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Who's on Top?"]

[Text] Alarming, indeed, rather than reassuring, are the recent pronouncements of the Police Commissioner and the Crime Chief that the Government and Police are on top of the crime situation.

For more than a year the police have been preoccupied with enforcing a political decision to ban certain basic food items, such as flour and split peas.

In this campaign, the police have been known to have often used their powers to demand bribes, and extort money and goods from traders, market vendors, bakers and others.

Police are regularly disciplined for such behaviour, the Crime Chief told us.

Moreover, senior police officers, engaged in this campaign, have been dismissed or transferred for irregularities, but no police officer has been brought before the courts to answer any charge.

Today, large quantities of banned or restricted goods can be bought in the markets and shops and even in the corporation outlets.

This means that much contraband has been let through the police net.

For years, gold has been exported illegally. People speak jokingly of the "Golden Aircraft" and of the "high ups" who are involved in the lucrative business of importing all types of equipment and spare parts, paid for with the gold they take out.

Far from stopping this illegal flow, the authorities in the past seemed to encourage it.

Corporation officials, party representatives and others have travelled regularly to Boa Vista with suitcases of Guyana dollars to buy food and other commodities.

Only recently, two plane loads of expensive photocopy paper were brought in from Brazil for the KSI.

The dollars paid for these goods are brought back by the Brazilian traders to purchase gold to take away. They and other dealers have been buying gold openly, not from the Gold Board, as the law requires but from miners and anyone who has gold to sell, including bandits or their agents.

The prices they paid were often three times the official price.

The police at all times had full powers to stop this illegal trade, but seem to have shut their eyes to it.

Now harsh new legislation has been enacted to confer even greater powers on the police to move against the miners.

Will they use these new powers differently to help them to get on top of the crime situation?

It is estimated that each year 10 percent of our rice production has been exported illegally. This has been going on for years. Were the police ever on top of that situation? If not, why not?

Both the Commissioner and Crime Chief agree that there has been an increase of violent crime of a very serious type, but give assurances that the situation is under control. Is it?

Ask the people who live in fear at night of their homes being broken into and of being beaten and killed.

Ask the many who fear to walk the streets at any time for fear of being choked and robbed.

Ask the residents, especially in the Indo-Guyanese communities, who fear the very police to whom they should be looking for protection.

They will all say that crime has got out of control.

More than mere words are needed to reassure them. The police need to get after the real criminals and those who protect them.

PPP Position

Georgetown MIRROR in English 18 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] The dramatic upsurge in violent crime was the topic of a 90-minute discussion between a PPP delegation and Commissioner of Police Lloyd Barker on Tuesday last. The 7-member delegation was headed by Clinton Collymore, MP, PPP spokesman for Home Affairs and defence in the National Assembly. In the delegation was a victim of armed robbery. His legs were set ablaze by armed bandits who invaded his home at La Bonne Mere, Cane Grove.

The wide-ranging talks centred on effective measures against gangsters, organising and training of Vigilante Groups, more effective and prompt police response to emergency calls, more police transport vehicles, court trials, lack of police investigation in certain cases, corruption and inefficiency in the Force, more under-cover special squad activity, etc.

Mr. Collymore told the MIRROR that he demanded that Vigilante Groups be armed and that police stations co-operate with the Groups. Commissioner Barker assured the delegation that he is in full support of Vigilante Groups, but did not commit himself to arming them. He was also asked to take action in cases where fire-arms applications have either been mysteriously delayed or "lost."

Vigilance and Cove and John police stations were criticised by the delegation for inefficiency. The Commissioner was told that a lot of complaints from crime victims have been received at Freedom House, against those two police stations.

Commissioner Barker undertook to look into the complaints listed, including a case of "lost firearm application" at Cove and John Station. The specific crime incidents brought to Mr. Barker's notice were as follows:

--Armed robbery on Nankumar Harripersaud of La Bonne Mere, Cane Grove. Some 15 passers-by were held prisoner in the house after having been robbed too. The victims identified two of the bandits as being a policeman and a soldier well known to them. Their names were given to Mr. Barker who said that he will launch a departmental probe into the matter.

--Armed robbery on John Balkissoon and his wife, both of whom were beaten up and chopped. Mr. Balkissoon who received 60 stitches, had not even been visited by Vigilance police in the PHG. It is felt that no investigation is being carried out in this matter.

--Armed robbery on the home of Sheer Mohamed Rohomon by 4 men in army uniform, in which Mrs. Rohomon was shot. Mr. Rohomon said his application for a firearm licence was "lost" at Cove and John Station. Commissioner Barker requested to see Mr. Rohomon the next day (Wednesday) at 3.30 p.m. for more details on his family's plight and his lost application.

--Armed robbery on and murder of Wardah Koupan of Stewartville who was shot when 4 armed men invaded his home. He speared one of them and managed to report the identities of two of them to Leonora police station. Mr. Barker assured the delegation that this case is well in hand.

--In the case of Sahodra Kissoon of Uitvlugt who was hit on the head with an iron bar at Leonora station by a policeman, Mr. Barker is to look into disciplinary measures against the policeman. He is also to provide information shortly on the whereabouts of Theodore Richards and Lambert Williams of N.W.D. who vanished while in police custody. He denied that they were dead. No response was given on the question of Busune Narine of Canal No. 1 Polder who was arrested on Sunday December 12, 1982, and died early next morning in police custody. He was taken to La Grange station.

--In the case of Ramkissoon Saymar who died while in custody at Brickdam, Mr. Barker said that an inquest is to be held soon. He gave no further information. In the case of the young women Genita Nazir, Sandra Nazir and Juliet DaSilva who were beaten up at Eve Leary, he said that a policeman has been charged. He disclosed that altogether 191 policemen were sacked by him in 1982 for improper conduct.

The Police Chief explained that his men have apparently broken the back of hard-core hold-up gangs on the East Coast, and that several persons have been charged. They appeared in court to answer 34 charges of murder, robbery, burglary, possession of arms, etc. Two others are being pursued in the interior by an armed police posse.

He gave statistics on the crime wave, pointing out that between January-June 1983, there were 166 cases of armed robberies. He said however that there has been a 'breakthrough' and that he is happy about it.

In May 1982 Mr. Barker had told another PPP delegation led by Mr. Collymore that the police were 'on top' of crime.

CSO: 3298/112

FUEL SMUGGLING TO SURINAME BRINGS COUNTERMEASURES

Report From Berbice

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Sep 83 p 3

[Text] East Berbice (GNA)--The Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association yesterday reported that the smuggling racket across the Corentyne border has taken a new turn with gasoline and dieselene being illegally shipped across to Suriname, thus worsening the fuel situation in Region Six.

Chamber President Malcolm Taharally, who made the disclosure, described those involved in the illegal racket as "vandals and rascals."

He stressed that anyone caught in what he described as the act of "banditry" should be jailed.

The Chamber President made the charge when a five-member team from the business organisation held discussions with the Mayor and Town Council of New Amsterdam. President Taharally said that his organisation would not condone or tolerate smuggling and blackmarketing.

Cde Taharally said that fuel was being filled in huge drums at Springlands and shipped across to Suriname.

As a result, he said, there is an artificial shortage of fuel for motorists on the Corentyne.

Mayor Gerald Scotland supported the views of the Chamber President.

A similar report was made to the Regional Agriculture Committee of East Berbice Corentyne at its statutory meeting last Saturday, when Regional Democratic Council member Cde Jai Sankar spoke out against the illegal trade across the Corentyne River.

He disclosed that gas stations on the Corentyne were filling drums with gasoline for smuggling activities. He claimed that the gasoline was being exchanged for contraband goods.

Regulation of Sales

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 18 Sep 83 p 16

[Text] The regional administration of Region Six (East Berbice/Corentyne) yesterday announced that no gasoline will be sold in drums or other containers without a permit from the Fire Department and recommendations from the regional chairman.

This prohibition will come into force from tomorrow in a move to curb the smuggling of fuel across the Corentyne border.

Announcing this at the regional administration council meeting, Guyoil Marketing Officer Cde. V. Shako alerted heads of government departments and local authorities that gas stations would sell gasoline and other fuel in containers provided permits from the Fire Department are obtained, stating the name of the consignee and the purpose for which the fuel is obtained.

Cde Shako warned that in this regard any fuel sold without the necessary document would be seized by the police and action could be taken against the owner of the gas station issuing the fuel.

He also pointed out that the supply of fuel to Berbice was disrupted because a bauxite barge sank in front of the Heatburn Storage Plant on the East Bank, Berbice last month.

He said that in order to help meet the demands of motorists and farmers fuel had to be transported from Georgetown in bulk trucks. The marketing officer further stated that the fuel situation in the Region should be resolved early this week since attempts are being made by Guyvine to remove the sunken vessel. A shipment of fuel is expected early this week. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/112

BRIEFS

JAPANESE AID GRANT--The Government of Japan has extended grant aid in the amount of 300,000,000 yen (approximately G\$3.8 million) to Guyana to assist in increased food production under the Tapakuma and MMA Drainage and Irrigation Projects in Guyana. Notes were exchanged yesterday between His Excellency, Mr. Takeshi Naito, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Guyana, and Cde Jeffrey Thomas, Minister of Home Affairs, performing the functions of Vice-President, Administration. The Government of Japan has already extended similar grant aid in the sum of 250 million yen (approximately G\$3.1 million) in 1980 for the increase of food production in the Tapakuma area. Additionally, grants to the tune of 340 million yen (approximately G\$4.2 million) in 1975, 400 million yen (approximately G\$5 million) in 1978 and 600 million yen (approximately G\$7.5 million) were extended for the completion of the first three phases of the Demerara Fish Port Complex. This assistance is a symbol of the friendly relations which exist between the two countries. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Sep 83 p 5]

MILITIA UNIFORM CHANGE--There is a change in the uniform for members of the Guyana People's Militia and already Permanent Staff can be seen in their new wear. With immediate effect Permanent Staff will wear the normal fawn coloured shirts, but instead of the Militia brown trousers, they will wear the "Olive Green" (OG) trousers similar to those worn by members of the Guyana Defence Force. In the future the reserves will be issued with OG trousers but meanwhile they will continue to wear the Militia brown trousers. This decision was taken mainly in the interest of the economy and as a first step towards a standardisation of dress in the Military Services. Ranks will also wear the OG cap of the Army but with the Militia badge on the front. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Sep 83 pp 4-5]

UNION SUIT AGAINST EXECUTIVE--The Guyana Mine Workers' Union has sued two former members of its Central Executive Committee in an effort to recover thousands of dollars allegedly owed to the union. The union alleged that former General President, Jacob Braithwaite, and former General Secretary Linden Smith, together owe the union some twenty-four thousand dollars in outstanding loans. Efforts to recover the money has been unsuccessful so far the source added. Braithwaite was ousted from office in 1979 following allegations of irregularities while Smith lost office in the union's June 1982 elections. The move follows rumours that the two past executive

members are initiating efforts to form a new trade union within the bauxite industry.--(GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Sep 83 p 1]

NEWSPRINT ISSUE--Last week, while those who have been shouting that they were being denied supplies of newsprint were able to put out their rags, we could not have published an issue of the New Nation. We had no newsprint. Of course we could understand the disappointment of our many readers who missed being informed about the happenings within our Party and about the global economic situation. Although the newsprint situation is not yet what it should be we are back this week. May we also apologise for the reduced circulation which is tied to the newsprint situation. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/113

CARL STONE COMMENTS ON STEPS TO END POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Oct 83 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone: "Political Violence"]

[Text]

THE RECENT news on the beginning of dialogue between the JLP and PNP top leadership on the subject of political violence offers a little hope that genuine efforts will be made to reduce or remove large scale political murder and destructiveness from our party system.

These early discussions are, however, a mere beginning. Also, the WPJ must be brought into the process of dialogues.

We should not forget that many gestures of peace and verbal support for non-violence were made in the past. On each occasion they were literally mocked by the extremes of violence and brutal political killings that followed.

Controlling political violence is not quite as simple as it seems. Violence is embedded in the very fabric of our society and inevitably some of it spills over into party politics.

What the nation has the right to demand is that the political parties begin to take serious steps to bring it under some control.

The use of brute force to project political strength did not begin with the JLP and the PNP. It has a long political history.

In the early colonial period when most citizens did not have the right to vote, the wealthy property-owners who dominated the politics of that period hired "goons" and "toughs" to parade at their open-air political as a show of strength. The initial purpose, it would seem, was to protect them from hecklers and opposition interests which were not above organising hired muscle to disrupt those gatherings.

Underlying the practice also was the social reality of candidates drawn mainly from the most privileged

families hiring "goons" to protect them in a social setting in which resentment against persons of privilege was not known.

With the emergence of the mass parties (the PNP and the JLP) the political defence forces and "goons" organised to disrupt meetings, gatherings and political canvassing have grown to quite massive proportions.

As the numbers of those involved grew and as partisan feeling intensified due to the emotional commitment of many of these emergent middle-class leaders, the violence increased in scale.

The late 1960's and the decade of the 1970's merely added two further dimensions. Increased urbanisation and the growth of vast armies of idle unemployed youth in festering ghettos of poverty swelled the ranks of the "goon" squads. Secondly, the introduction of illegal guns into the society on a quite massive scale by organised crime and by some politicians moved the violence to the extreme levels that ripped the society apart in the second decade of the '70's.

Vital signs

The big question is what are vital signs indicating that the parties are intent on doing more than paying lip service to peace and non-violence. In my view, they include the following:

1. Party leaders requesting known political gunmen to turn in their illegal weapons
2. Party leaders attempting to convince their supporters to ex-communicate from their parties persons who distribute guns and engage in unprovoked acts of political violence and doing so publicly at party conferences.
3. The setting up of bi-partisan or multi-party peace committees in each constituency with responsibility to establish a truce and to monitor its observance.

4. Party leaders ceasing the long tradition of mobilising activists through the appeal to hate and anger towards their opponents.

5. Party leaders at the constituency and national levels beginning to create the climate for peace by working together on matters that involve the national interest or community interests.

6. Party leaders beginning to display, by example, attitudes of tolerance and respect for opponents while disagreeing with their politics and political or ideological vies.

7. Party leaders at both the national and constituency levels working together to rid the society of guns and gunmen who prey on all of us.

If we assess our readiness to establish by these criteria a political peace that is lasting and has meaning beyond empty rhetorical gestures, then it must be obvious to the most naive among us that we have not yet reached first base in tackling this deep-rooted problem.

More importantly, it should be clear to everyone that basic political attitudes in this country have to change if we are to have elections and politics free from fear.

Two things cause me to be very cynical about these peace talks and peace initiatives. The party leaders (PNP, JLP and even WPJ) have only limited control over the gunmen who make "war" on their behalf. Secondly, the intensity of party feeling among activists is such that those who carry out acts of violence against political enemies are rewarded as being heroes in the cause.

To the extent that larger and larger segments of the society live by the gun, it is not realistic to expect it to be absent from party politics. Politics will not be rid of violence until the society is rid of the monster of criminal gangs toting guns. The one is a mere mirror of the other.

Currency of power

But for the power-seeking among the poor, the gun is their currency of power in much the same way that money is for the capitalist class and professional training and certificates are for the middle-class. They are not going to give up their power without a struggle.

Another view is that if the violent ones are thrown out of the established parties where at least they operate under some constraints, throwing them out of these parties could have the effect of forcing them into a more potentially disruptive role in the society and even towards more anarchist-type class politics, as they would no longer have any ties with the middle-class power structure that controls the parties (JLP, PNP and WPJ).

In the final analysis, if we cannot remove illegal guns from the society no amount of rhetoric for peace and extensive and high-publicity peace meetings will even begin to deal with the monster of political violence.

MANUFACTURERS REPORT ONLY 49 PERCENT USE OF CAPACITY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Oct 83 p 5

[Text] Kingston, Sun. (Cana)--Jamaican factories in August were producing at 49 per cent of capacity, but this was three per cent better than four months earlier, according to Jamaica Manufacturer's Association (JMA) President, Anthony Williams.

"The last capacity utilisation survey was in August, and this showed a 49 per cent capacity utilisation," Williams told reporters. "This compared favourably with the previous survey in May, when utilisation was 46 per cent." The next survey will be done this month.

Jamaican manufacturers suffer from a long list of problems, the major one being the country's foreign exchange crisis, which often means delays in purchasing raw materials and other inputs from abroad, as well as capital equipment for refurbishing.

Only last week, the JMA and the Jamaica Exporters' Association (JEA) complained that many import applications for raw material imports were being returned, because of "foreign exchange stringencies."

However, the Government said comparatively few importers were affected in what was a review of the allocation of foreign exchange against actual imports, aimed at making the best use of available resources.

Williams has since reported that some applications that had been returned were being processed and permission granted.

The Edward Seaga Government here, hoping to develop an export-led economy, has been deregulating, on the theory that increased competition will force local producers to become efficient and competitive, and also to find markets abroad.

Government, in its programme, is hinging a lot of hope on the United States-sponsored Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), through which most regional products will have duty-free access to the American market for 12 years.

Jamaican manufacturers say they are willing to grasp the opportunities offered by the CBI, though Williams has warned that nothing dramatic should be expected in the very early stages.

In reference to the CBI and the potential of Jamaican factories to produce adequately for export, Williams said: "There needs to be sustained plant runs and for certain bottlenecks to be overcome."

CSO: 3298/114

GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF IMPORT QUOTAS HIT; VAZ RESPONDS

JMA Criticism

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Oct 83 pp 1, 14

[Text]

Jamaica Manufacturers' Association president, Mr. R. Anthony Williams, said yesterday that the exercise on reviewing import quotas and licences now being conducted by the Government was forcing the majority of some 150 manufacturers to close their operations.

A statement issued by Mr. Williams said that the Government's review should have been completed by October 7, but up to yesterday it was still taking place.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Douglas Vaz, had said at the end of last month that the review was taking place and would have been completed in a week after his announcement. He also said that priority import licences would be looked at during the review.

Mr. Williams said he had submitted a list of critical import applications to be afforded priority treatment, among which were two applications for packaging materials to enable a manufacturer to complete and supply a "hard currency" export order of over U. S. \$650,000 by October 28.

"Unless these two licences are issued within the next 24 hours, that company which for the most part uses indigenous raw materials will be unable to complete the export order and the country will lose the opportunity to earn over U.S.\$650,000 in hard currency," he said.

Mr. Williams said that of the many other critical licences that had been held up because of the review now taking place, at least two others deserved high priority attention. These were two milk processors; and dairy farmers should therefore "not be surprised if some of their colleagues become unable to sell milk to these processors within the next seven days".

RECALLING that some 150 persons representing about 188 manufacturing companies attended the special general meeting at the JMA last Wednesday, the JMA president that requests have been made of the

members to limit the lay-off of workers because the JMA had been assured that priority was being given to its latest representations and for the most part licences would have been issued by Monday of this week.

"At this stage, the JMA is not convinced that the current review of quotas and licences for the manufacturing sector is being addressed with the urgency demanded," Mr. Williams said.

He observed how ironical it was that at a time when Trinidad had taken steps which would have the effect of keeping Jamaican goods out of the market for Christmas, action or the lack of it by the Government would effectively keep Jamaican manufactured goods out of its own market at Yuletide.

Mr. Williams noted that the local manufacturing sector would be faced with a severely tight cash flow situation in late October and going into November and December and called on all manufacturers to start an immediate review of their operations to ensure that companies survive during this "difficult" period.

Mr. Williams renewed his call on the Government to issue the licences for which foreign exchange had already been secured and was "lying idly in the commercial banks".

Vaz Warning to Importers

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Oct 83 p 12

[Text]

Import quotas being held by some Jamaican companies without being utilised may be taken away and transferred instead to other companies who need them, Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Douglas Vaz, said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the official opening of the Boulevard Supercentre, in Kingston Mr. Vaz said he was disturbed and confused at what was taking place in the system with regard to the utilisation of quotas. He said that several local businessmen now hold quotas far in excess of what they need, thus depriving others and such quotas would have to be re-allocated from those who had them and were not using them to those who "want and need them and can use them productively."

Mr Vaz said that many importers were flagrantly breaching the regulations by treating quotas as if they were licences and importing goods before getting approved licences. "We keep telling them that a quota is not a licence and they should get their licence before importing goods", he said, "but they don't do this and it is when the goods are already on the wharves that they clog the Trade Board claiming that they need a licence immediately because storage charges are mounting. This will no longer be tolerated. We

have tried moral persuasion and this has not worked. Those who import goods without a licence will get absolutely no redress and their goods can stay and rot and their money can stay and rot as far as I am concerned."

Mr. Vaz said that local businessmen have been using quotas as an item of trade, buying and selling them at will, and he predicted large-scale hardships for persons who had so purchased quotas and find that they could not get corresponding licences. "I hope they encounter great hardships, not small hardships, so that this business would stop", Mr Vaz said.

Mr Vaz called on Jamaican businessmen to discontinue what he termed "indiscipline in trading". He said that the indiscipline in the system must be stopped and those who were good corporate entities must be separated from those who do not have the good of Jamaica at heart.

Mr. Vaz said that the Government "can't keep on dreaming up measure after measure to stop gap", but a restructuring of the mentality of the businessman must occur so that when Government puts in new regulations his attention is put to complying with them and not on how to get around them.

Describing Allied Stores as a "good corporate entity" Mr. Vaz said that their expansion programme was

an "enlightened one" which is the result of much planning and forethought and which coincides perfectly with his Government's policy.

He invited other Jamaican companies to "tally their needs with Government policy."

Mr. Vaz said that Universal Stores had adopted "a highly intelligent approach" when they spoke with him earlier this year about their plans to transform the former Shopper's Fair into the Boulevard Supercentre — a one-stop store featuring a supermarket, in-store bakery and butcher's corner as well as a home depot, mall, and a gift and coffee shop.

"I wish more corporate entities like Universal Stores, would show how licences issued for the importation of capital goods were used to the benefit of the public", Mr Vaz said. He continued: "The expansion programme must be understood within the socio-economic and political context it is made. It was based on very systematic and factual analysis and this is how corporate entities should respond. We see here good corporate behaviour with the proper utilization of foreign exchange and I know that the Universal Stores is also moving to buy more and more indigenous supplies here in line with Government's wish to expand our

local sector. Not all companies have behaved so well."

Mr. Vaz commended Universal Stores on the introduction of a computerised check-out system at the supermarket, noting that this should do much to alleviate many of the problems of long queues at check-out counters which consumers have been complaining about on the "Hot-Line".

He said that the Prices Commission now has a new thrust with emphasis on the protection of the consumer and the name would be correspondingly changed to the Consumer Protection Commission.

Speaking at the function, Mr. Aaron Maralon, chairman of the ICD Group of Companies, asked Mr. Vaz to bear the needs of the retail trade in mind when he was approached for price increases. He said that the retail traders were always greatly affected in such instances and asked the Minister to include them in all such deliberations.

Describing the Boulevard Supercentre as "an innovation for Jamaica" Mr. Maralon said that no licence had as yet been granted for the operation of a pharmacy within the complex because, he said, there was decision taken by the authorities to grant such licences only to licensed druggists. "I don't intend to go back to school", Mr. Maralon said, "but I will fight tooth and nail to see that the people of this area get the services of a modern pharmacy."

EXPORTERS CHARGE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LEND ENCOURAGEMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Oct 83 p 2

[Text]

President of the Jamaica Exporters Association, Mr. Geoffrey Messado, has cited the "dormancy of the Export Development Fund" as an indicator that current "Government policies do not assist and encourage exports."

He was speaking Tuesday night about problems facing the export sector at the St. Andrew Lyceum, June 1983-1984 General Assembly Meeting held at the chapter's new headquarters at Derrymore Road, St. Andrew.

After reiterating that the import restrictions which the Trinidad Government imposed last week will, if left unmodified, "cause irrevocable damage to many of our numbers," Mr. Messado focussed on what he called the lack of foreign exchange for production imports which posed a major dilemma for exporters and Jamaica.

He said there could be no debate that the island's major economic dilemma was the lack of foreign exchange and the continuing decline in balance of trade. For the first six

months of this year exports were less than the similar period last year and imports were greater so that of over \$1.2 billion, imports were more than double exports of \$600 million creating an additional negative increase in foreign exchange deficit of over \$600 million.

The effect of the new Jamaica-Trinidad and Tobago exports crisis was "compounded by the fact that Government policies do not assist and encourage exports," Mr. Messado said.

He added that "the Export Development Fund which was instituted to give exporters access to foreign exchange to import raw materials and spare parts at official or Caricom rates had been dormant for the last four months."

Exporters were finding it difficult to maintain the stability of their operations while having to secure foreign exchange "to purchase inputs at the parallel market rate which works out to over \$4.00, while remitting 50 per cent of export proceeds at the official rate in the case of third country sales or at \$2.25 for CARICOM."

Mr. Messado turned to the loss of the other "facilities offered by the EDF, the ability to obtain import licences outside the regular Trade Board system."

He said, "since the return of all licence applications a fortnight ago by the Trade Board for exporters who now have to go through the normal system, most of them have still not yet received licences despite announcements to the contrary."

These foreign exchange problems compounded by the new Trinidad import restriction policy constituted a serious disincentive to export, Mr. Messado said.

"Many people who have the finances and expertise to get into exports do not just because it is easier and more profitable to remain tied to the local market exclusively," he added.

The JEA President concluded: "what we need are more people with a positive attitude who will with hard work, diligence and intensity of purpose get into production for export and demonstrate that one can be equally successful in this field as in any other."

PNP'S PATTERSON CRITICIZES BUDGET, ECONOMIC POLICIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Oct 83 pp 2, 14

[Text] The newly elected Chairman of the People's National Party and former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. P. J. Patterson, has called on the Government to "settle and announce the real budget for 1983/1984 and indicate what are the clear priorities."

He said that "certain important Ministries," such as the Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture, "will run out of funds before year end" and "vital programmes will have to be abandoned" if the final revised budget allocation--after budget cuts--does not make adequate provision for these Ministries.

Mr. Patterson was speaking about the economy to businessmen attending a St. Andrew Rotary Club luncheon held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston, on Tuesday.

He said: "As of October 1983, the country still continues to operate in the absence of a genuine budget for this fiscal year. The country does not know the true size of expenditure and revenue for the current financial year."

Predicting that some Ministries would face critical financial problems later this year, Mr. Patterson said that "no Ministry can tell us what is its exact allocation. Each is operating on an ad hoc basis. The attempt to cut the original budget by 10 per cent across the board, is having deleterious effects and threatens a breakdown in particular Ministries such as Education, Health and Agriculture."

He also identified unemployment, the operation of the parallel market, dependence on consumer imports, as problems which could only be solved through "national mobilization" cutting across party lines.

Charging that "the requirements of the parallel market have led to inevitable confusion and inherent contradictions," Mr. Patterson called on the Government to "establish a clear, comprehensive and workable policy for the management of foreign exchange, which is admittedly inadequate and settle a firm policy on exchange rates."

He said that the wide scale use of parallel market funds for oil importation had created a situation in which it was exceedingly difficult for the "commercial purchaser of funds" to obtain sufficient funds for key imports.

Moreover, exporters of traditional crops such as sugar, bananas and citrus were suffering from "depressed earnings" because they had to purchase dollars to buy fertilizers, tools, machinery, insecticides and other essential supplies at the parallel market rate while securing earnings at the official rate of exchange, Mr. Patterson said.

Hotels were also being affected adversely by the hardship of having to buy supplies at parallel market rates while receiving revenue at the official rate, he said.

The PNP Chairman referred to the CARICOM exchange rate as "an artificial rate which has no basis in reality," claiming that "the costs of production for CARICOM exports are well above this artificial rate" and that "all of this has made it difficult, if not impossible for business to budget or plan."

Government must ensure that adequate foreign exchange is available to secure raw materials for export industries and the imports necessary for economic expansion, he said.

Mr. Patterson said the Government had borrowed from the Bank of Jamaica in the first six months of the year more than it earned in tax revenue.

Mr. Patterson said, that "immediate steps should be taken to revive and rationalize the sugar industry having regard to its high employment content, linkages to other important areas and its implications to our international trading agreements and our export earnings."

He also said that "the process of deregulation should cease," and that "there must be an early expansion of our capacity in the tourist industry" and the provision of "reasonable incentives" to investors.

The former Deputy Prime Minister also called for "special programmes of employment in the rural and urban areas" and an end to the "stratospheric increases in the cost of basic commodities and essential services."

While making these calls "for immediate action," Mr. Patterson said that current economic problems are "to a great degree reflecting structural deficiencies in the development of the economy."

"It is as erroneous to believe that the problems of the present administration have only arisen from the legacy of the previous one as it is to conclude that there is some magic and infallible economic prescription which can be applied to put everything instantly right," he said. Mr. Patterson said that positive long term steps should be taken to upgrade and replace capital in the sugar industry, reduce the level of consumer goods importation and address other structural problems.

On the issue of governmental style, he said: "There must be a broadening of political responsibility, especially in the management of the economy. The problems are too stubborn, numerous and complex to justify the concentration of all power and all decisions in any one person no matter how hard working or sincere he may be."

Mr. Patterson said that while the "PNP can provide leadership" for the solution of the immediate and underlying structural problems facing the economy, "it has to enlist the cooperation of all patriotic Jamaicans." The Party would therefore be seeking to formulate and refine developmental policies which benefit from the widest cross-section of inputs, and welcoming the contribution of all sectoral bodies, professional groups and individual experts.

CSO: 3298/114

'SPECIAL DEAL' DENIED IN ALCOA DECISION ON BAUXITE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Oct 83 pp 1, 13

[Text] Alcoa Minerals of Jamaica and the Jamaica Bauxite Institute denied yesterday a People's National Party claim that Alcoa has received concessionary bauxite levy treatment as an inducement to put the second unit of its Clarendon Alumina Works Refinery back into operation by mid-1984.

Mr. Hugh Hart, chairman of the J.B.I., said that Alcoa's decision to expand its production was not the result of any "special deal"...but rather reflected the anticipated upturn in the industry worldwide, combined with the company's confidence in the policies of the present administration.

Alcoa had announced last Tuesday that it would substantially increase alumina production here by reactivating the second unit at the refinery next year, taking production from the current level of 365,000 tonnes per year to a record 500,000 tonnes; and increasing its staff.

This announcement came after a meeting between Prime Minister Seaga and Alcoa officials led by Mr. Charles Parry, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors, at Alcoa's headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

A statement issued by the P.N.P. last Thursday said that the company's decision was the outcome of a concessionary bauxite levy deal "which is not in the best interest of the country and indeed has drawn adverse reaction from the other companies operating locally."

Alcoa's Public Relations Manager, Mr. Tony Ray, told the GLEANER yesterday that he "did not know about any deal," and that the decision to increase alumina production next year was principally the outcome of improved market conditions, of an upturn in the demand for aluminium.

The P.N.P. statement had said:

"While we welcome any effort to increase production in the bauxite industry, information reaching the Party would suggest that the announcement concerning the increase contemplated by Alcoa has only come about because of a deal worked out with Alcoa concerning the Bauxite Levy."

The Party called on "the Minister of Mining and Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Seaga, to say what deal has been worked out with Alcoa, whether any undertaking has been given to that company for a lowering of the bauxite levy and whether it is to be the policy of the Government to work out separate levy agreements with the individual companies."

Mr. Ray said that the company pays the bauxite levy on the same terms that all bauxite companies are obligated to pay and that Alcoa has decided to increase alumina production because "the aluminium industry is picking up." The turnabout in the industry has been partly caused by higher demand for aluminium containers, since more producers are "turning from plastic materials to aluminium containers which are lighter, more durable and can be recycled," he said.

The statement by the J.B.I., issued by Mr. Hart, said:

"It was reported on Friday last that the Opposition has expressed the view, based on information it claims to have received, that the substantial increase in alumina production next year by Alcoa Minerals of Jamaica which was recently announced is not in the best interests of Jamaica. It was further intimated that this increased production resulted from a special deal worked out with Alcoa to lower that company's levy payments.

"Alcoa's decision to expand its production is not the result of any 'special deal' worked out on the levy but, rather, reflects the anticipated upturn in the industry worldwide, combined with the company's confidence in the policies of the present administration.

"The current levy regime expires on December 31 this year, and prior to that date it is expected that a new levy regime, to commence in 1984, will have been finalised with the companies. Discussions have been taking place with the companies separately, and will culminate in joint meetings with the industry as a whole to reach mutual agreement on the new levy regime, which will be applicable across the board.

"We are not aware of any adverse reaction from any of the other companies to Alcoa's announcement; nor would we expect this, as the companies operate on an independent basis.

"The expanded production by Alcoa next year will result in a significant increase in foreign exchange inflows to Jamaica. The start-up of the second unit at Clarendon Alumina Works Refinery will also mean additional employment in the bauxite/alumina sector, whose labour force has been hard hit by the recent world recession which had the impact of lowering production, thereby necessitating layoffs in the industry.

"Alcoa's expansion in 1984 will be the first sign of growth in the industry in Jamaica since 1972 and I fail to see how this fact, coupled with the positive and beneficial results which will flow from it, can be termed by the Opposition as not being in the best interest of Jamaica. I would expect the industry workers in particular and the country in general to be equally perplexed. What is not in the best interests of Jamaica is this sort of irresponsible and negative propaganda by the Opposition."

STEPS TAKEN TO BOLSTER FUTURE OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

Government Funds

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 9 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] A block of funds "which will enable the factory repair programme and other necessary repair services" to commence at the seven sugar factories operated by the National Sugar Company has been identified by the Government, according to sources close to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The sources would not disclose the amount of money involved, but it was learnt that a sum in the region of J\$2.5 million had been identified, and that when all the available resources were marshalled, the total may be as much as J\$4 million.

According to the sources, the block of funds would not be adequate to carry out all the repairs and refurbishment of the seven factories that had become necessary due to the badly run-down state in which these factories now are, but it would provide interim financing "until adequate sources of funding could be found and marshalled by the Ministry of Finance to do the overall repairs necessary."

In the statement which it issued on Wednesday, the NSC had said that following a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, it had been agreed that the factory repair programme would be accelerated through special funds to be set up for that purpose.

Meanwhile, at the factories, a slow return to normalcy began on Friday, with a number of those employees who had been sent off on Tuesday, reporting for duty. It is expected that by tomorrow more employees will turn out, and the task of repairing and refurbishing the mills in time for the start of the 1983/84 crop will begin.

Investigation on Friday at the level of the Sugar Industry Authority to secure details of the industry's accounts, brought no result. However, it was learnt that the guaranteed price paid for sugar (produced by the National Sugar Company and marketed by the SIA) in the 1982/83 crop which ended last Friday, was J\$915 a ton.

Another factor which emerged during the investigation was that the low output which had plagued the industry for several years now, was again manifest this year, as preliminary figures show a production of just under 200,000 tons.

PNP Statement

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 9 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] The People's National Party has called on the Government to "speedily refurbish the factories so that they may commence grinding at the soonest possible opportunity."

In a statement issued on Friday, the Opposition party also called on the Government to take steps to ensure that the livelihood of the farmers and workers in the industry was protected.

Expressing shock and distress at the "air of uncertainty prevailing in the Sugar Industry," the PNP said:

"We take note of the conflicting reports as to whether the seven sugar factories owned and operated by the Government through the National Sugar Company are indeed closed.

"We note the statement of the Managing Director of the National Sugar Company that there is no closure but rather that the four week end-of-crop period of closure has been extended to eight weeks.

"We note on the other hand the fact that there is no activity at the factories and, indeed, from reports reaching the PNP, one could draw the conclusion that there has been an indefinite period of closure."

The PNP said the state of uncertainty which existed in so vital an industry as sugar could not be allowed to continue. It noted what it said were "the serious implications for employment in the industry and indeed the serious implications for the economy in the area of foreign exchange earnings."

Reduced Capacity

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Oct 83 pp 1, 18

[Text] The island's sugar factories will be back in production between December and January but with a reduction in factory capacity, according to Jamaica Labour Party Senator Clifton Stone.

He said that 11,000 workers would not be thrown out of their jobs, contrary to "misleading" reports carried in the electronic media. "There ought to be certain adjustments made but the crop will be taken off next year," he added.

Senator Stone, who was opening the State of the Nation debate in the Senate on Friday on the note that the Government had done well despite the global economic hardships, said the misleading statements had been made about the industry with a calculated attempt to frighten away cane-farmers from the next sugar crop.

The Senator also said that negotiations were taking place with interested parties for the divestment of the Frome and Monymusk Sugar Estates.

"We need not drive fear in an industry which is faced with problems at this time; let's seek instead to find a panacea to the problems," he said.

Sugar was a peculiar commodity which had brought "we blacks to this part of the world," he noted; however it was going through a dark period, as he appealed to the detractors of the industry to refrain from using sugar as a political football.

Giving a short historical background on sugar and its production ups and downs, Senator Stone said that in 1965 output was up to 500,000 tons, declining to 200,000 tons in the late '70s and now settling at 185,000 tons. There was an over-supply of sugar on the international scene.

Approximately 96 million tons of sugar, including beet sugar, was in production worldwide while demand was 92 million, representing a surplus of 4 million tons. World stock stood between 40 and 43 million tons although it should be between 27 and 29 million tons.

This situation was complicated by the European Economic Community (EEC) moving from being a net importer of sugar to being a net exporter. Beet sugar was now a profitable industry. Sugar-cane was attracting 10-11 cents per pound but in order to be really profitable it must be sold at 17 cents per pound on the world market.

Added to all these developments, sugar substitutes such as high-fructose corn had eroded the demand for sugar-cane or beet.

"This Government is doing its utmost to maintain the guaranteed price of sugar at 25 cents per pound, divided between the farmers and factory, to enable workers and the farmers to survive," Senator Stone said, as he asked that sugar not be used as a political football since it employed 11,000 people in the public sector while another 50,000 persons were dependent on the industry.

He called for an increase in management productivity and efficiency, the lack of which he said was one of the problems affecting the industry. No one could blame the workers for failings in the industry, because everyone knew of the commitment and the contribution the sugar workers made towards the industry.

"We will have to look at the whole structure and management of the industry," he said, underscoring the Government's commitment to the industry although there was a cash-flow problem.

On the motion for the adjournment, Senator Desmond Leaky, of the Opposition, said that while Senator Stone had tried to allay his fears as to the future of the industry, he was left "a little more confused by the statements made."

He said that fresh developments in the sugar industry called for a clear-cut Government policy. Two weeks ago, he said, the Minister of Agriculture had told farmers not to worry about a close-down of the industry because instructions had been given for repairs on the factories to be effected.

However, on Tuesday last, workers heard that they had been laid off.

At this point, the Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Dr. Ronald Irvine, rose to object to Senator Leaky's "full-scale debate" on a motion for adjournment.

Economy Measures

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] National Sugar Company will be appointing boards of directors to have responsibility for the operations of its seven sugar factories and reduce its head office staff by about 50 percent, effective Tuesday, November 1. Some of the functions now being performed by the company's central administration will become the responsibility of these boards.

These measures are being taken by NSC "in its continued effort to reduce overhead costs and increase the level of efficiency of its operations with particular emphasis on factory operations," the company's Managing Director, Mr. R. Evon Brown, said in a statement to the GLEANER yesterday.

Mr. Brown met yesterday with the managers of the seven sugar factories and advised them of the decision which had been taken. It is understood that the decision concerning the head office reduction was later communicated to the NSC's headquarters staff.

The boards of directors which will have the responsibility to ensure that the factories' operations become viable, will be answerable to the NSC Board.

Mr. Brown's statement said:

"The National Sugar Company Limited, in its continued efforts to reduce overhead costs and increase the level of efficiency of its operations with particular emphasis on factory operations, has decided on the establishment of separate Boards of Directors for each of its sugar estates.

"These Boards of Directors will have the responsibility of ensuring that the factories' operations become viable.

"With the establishment of these Boards, some of the functions now being performed by the Company's Central Administration will become the responsibility of the local administrations.

"This restructuring will result in a reduction of Head Office overhead costs and manning levels of approximately 50 percent, involving 27 employees, and will become effective 1st November, 1983."

Last week, National Sugar said it was forced to reduce "its current level of activities on its various estates to bare essentials" and that "these activities will be held to essential services only with reduction in present manning levels."

The company said that a financial crisis was affecting its operations. As a consequence, factory workers who were normally off on vacation for four weeks, were sent off for eight weeks in all the company's factories.

At the same time, the company said, the factory repair programme would be accelerated through special funds which would be set up for that purpose. This decision followed a meeting between members of the NSC Board and the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick.

CSO: 3298/115

SEAGA LAUNCHES LAND REFORM, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Oct 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Revolutionary land reform concept in which Production Centres will form the pivot for development of 200,000 acres of unutilized or underutilized land to maximize production of 27 selected crops, was unveiled yesterday by Prime Minister Edward Seaga as he launched AGRO 21 at a ceremony in the Oceana Hotel in downtown Kingston.

The development which is to be undertaken in large part by private developers, producing on a commercial scale and using advanced technology, will, by their example, cause "knowledge radiation" among the surrounding small farms.

Projections of foreign exchange earnings from AGRO 21 over the next four years have been set at \$1,365 million to be derived in the ratio of \$450 million from projects established under the "A" list and \$915 million from projects under the "B" and "C" lists.

At the same time, the project is expected to provide additional employment for some 142,000 persons over the four-year period. Of this number, 38,000 are to be employed under projects in the "A" list and 104,000 on projects under the "B" and "C" lists.

The Prime Minister said that already 81 projects involving 17 product categories had been established on 87,000 acres of land under what he classified as the "A" list.

"A" list items specified are: winter vegetables, bananas, coffee, tobacco, coconuts, rice, citrus, honey, cocoa, as well as dairy, beef, ethnic crops, ornamental horticulture, aquaculture, afforestation, orchard crops, and a new product, aloe vera.

In addition, a number of projects which were in mid-stream or in which negotiations had yet been finalized, were earmarked for some 12,000 acres--and these had been classified under the "B" list.

And the third grouping, involving projects which "were beginning to be put together but not yet finalized," would cover another 42,000 acres.

Product categories under these two other lists include pineapples, cassava, ethanol, and sunflower/sorghum, high-yielding cane, cotton, macademia nuts, jojoba, winged beans.

These three "lists" provided for the utilization of 141,000 acres of land which was either unutilized or under-utilized, said Mr. Seaga, who added that a search would be embarked upon to find the additional land among unused and under-utilized holdings held by the Government as well as private owners.

The Prime Minister said that AGRO 21, which was designed to address the two major economic problems afflicting the economy: namely, the shortage of foreign exchange and the lack of employment, would be undertaken on the basis of using private developers to produce on a commercial scale, using advanced technology.

This did not rule out the involvement of small producers, whose production under the project, would be determined largely according to the length of maturity of the crop. He cited coffee, as an example of small farmer involvement in production.

Describing how the cultivation of these crops would be undertaken within the Production Centres, the Prime Minister said this would involve a number of the latest production techniques, including tissue culture, in which clones of high-yielding varieties would be produced on a large scale; drip irrigation involving not only the application of water but fertilizer in liquid form; grading and packaging, inspection by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the zoning of crops according to soil capability and climate.

Mr. Seaga mentioned, in relation to these, the multiplication of clones on the banana project at Eastern Banana Estates by tissue culture; the application of drip irrigation; construction of a modern grading and packaging plant; construction of a cool-room at the N.W. Manley Airport and at the Sangster Airport; the arrangement worked out with USDA to have produce inspection by that department carried out at the Jamaican end and a complete review of the island's land capability map with the assistance of the University of Michigan, and the Dutch Government, working in conjunction with the Physical Planning Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Seaga said that, in the Production Centres, the crops to be grown would be based on the soil capability and the climate, and the highest technology would be employed and it was envisioned that transfer of this technology would take place from the commercial farms to the surrounding small farms.

It was not planned, he said, to spend money on housing and other infra-structural housing development in these centres. Any infra-structure that was built would be to facilitate the production and transportation of the crops.

Mr. Seaga said that the Jamaica National Investment Company had been designated to hold, on behalf of the Government, its equity in AGRO 21; and that organisation would be empowered to sell that equity to interested private developers, on the strict understanding that such developers entered into a commitment to undertake their own project in agriculture.

Responding to the question where would AGRO 21 be established, the Prime Minister issued a clear note of caution: "I do not want anyone to leave here believing that AGRO 21 will be a production programme that will involve every parish in Jamaica in equal manner." He said climatic factors and soil capability would determine the utilization of the lands to be cultivated.

Specifically, the lands that had shown themselves best suited were those in the southern part of the island--the flat lands of Clarendon and St. Elizabeth. Also, the hill areas of Trelawny and Manchester; Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth; St. Ann, St. Mary; the hills of St. Andrew and Portland; St. Thomas; parts of Hanover and St. James.

Mr. Seaga said every parish would have some impact on AGRO 21, but some would have more than others.

On the question of participation, he said: "I do not wish that anyone should leave here with the feeling that this project will benefit everyone in farming." He said that those farmers who are already being served by the Ministry of Agriculture would continue to benefit from the services which it provides. He emphasized that AGRO 21 would focus on lands which were unutilized or under-utilized.

The Prime Minister was introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percy Broderick, who was chairman of the occasion.

A highlight of the ceremony was the showing of a video tape on AGRO 21, showing what had been accomplished since the special committee on the project was established in November last year, with Mr. Seaga as Chairman and Mr. Broderick as Vice-Chairman and a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Brascoe Lee, as co-ordinator.

CSO: 3298/115

NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION IN 'CRITICAL' FINANCIAL BIND

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] The National Water Commission, which is responsible for providing water islandwide, is in a "critical financial position", the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, Hon. Parnell Charles, has said.

The NWC now owes \$44 million to its creditors and contractors and at present rate of returns from sale of water, accumulated loss over the next three years is expected to reach \$123 million, Mr. Charles, who has responsibility for the NWC, told the GLEANER in an interview.

The prolonged drought has had adverse effects on the fiscal and cash flow positions of the Commission, he said.

There has been a reduced supply of water, resulting in loss of revenue of \$6.8 million between April 1982 and August 1983. Additionally, the NWC has had to spend \$6.1 million on emergencies, new wells, transport of water, overtime and other miscellaneous works to improve the distribution system during the crisis period. This amount was unrecoverable, he said.

Emergency Plan

Wage demands, debt servicing and overdraft were other factors responsible for widening the "massive gap" between sales and expenses, Mr. Charles said.

In light of these developments, the Minister on Friday asked the management of the NWC to prepare a financial plan to put the Commission on a viable basis and submit this to him this week.

The NWC's management had actually been working on such a plan for some time.

Mr. Charles said the plan is to work out a revenue efficiency programme-- one to control costs, improve customer service, reduce the incidence of delinquent payments, reschedule NWC finances, look at its capital development programme and its rate structure. Water rates were last increased at the beginning of 1981.

No rains were expected until later this month, Mr. Charles said, and if no rains fell additional emergency plans would have to be considered. He said he did not believe the country had reached the stage where cloud seeding had to be considered, because of the adverse effect this could have on lives and property.

Several areas of the island had been having rain but most of Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, parts of Clarendon, St. Ann and the mid range of the island were having serious water difficulties, Mr. Charles said. Haiti and the Dominican Republic were also affected by the drought, he said. It was the worse drought Jamaica had experienced since the dams in Kingston were constructed 50 years ago and it was attributed by weather experts to a shift in the weather pattern.

CSO: 3298/116

SABOTAGE SUSPECTED IN KINGSTON ELECTRICAL POWER OUTAGE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Oct 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] What are suspected to be acts of sabotage yesterday cut off electricity supply from the Old Harbour power station in St. Catherine from Kingston, resulting in sections of the Corporate Area--downtown Kingston, Newport West and sections of Half-way Tree and Red Hills--being without light and power.

And as the strike by JPSCo. workers continued yesterday, for the eighth day without any sign of a settlement, Prime Minister Edward Seaga was meeting with the parties at Jamaica House at press time last night.

Earlier, the Minister of Labour appealed to the workers to resume their jobs.

The GLEANER understands that Wednesday night a utility pole carrying an electricity transmission line from the Old Harbour power station to Kingston was sawn through. Yesterday another utility pole was found to have been tampered with and yesterday afternoon, a third caught fire. All three incidents are suspected to have involved acts of sabotage.

They resulted yesterday afternoon in a power surge which knocked out two gas turbines at the Hunt's Bay power station in Kingston, resulting in sections of downtown Kingston being blacked-out.

A spokesman for the company told the GLEANER that as soon as the gas turbines were restored to service, only some sections that lost electricity yesterday would get back power and the system would be short of some 15 to 20 megawatts of electricity, with the result that there is the likelihood of limited power-cuts.

A report from the company last night said that one of the transmission lines that had been damaged was repaired and electricity was being restored to all of Kingston.

An appeal to workers to go back to work so that their dispute with the company may be dealt with by the Industrial Disputes Tribunal was made yesterday by the Hon. J. A. G. Smith, Minister of Labour and the Public Service.

Mr. Smith, who has been having separate talks since Wednesday with top-level representatives of the electricity company and of the BITU and NWU, which represent the nearly 1,000 workers, made his appeal to the workers "in their interest and in the public interest."

The hourly-paid workers have been on strike since October 6, after five workers at the company's transport section at Harbour and Gold Streets in Kingston were dismissed for allegedly man-handling a superintendent of the company.

On Monday the Industrial Disputes Tribunal to which the dispute was referred by the Ministry of Labour, ordered the strikers back to work but they have defied the order.

As the GLEANER understands it, the company is willing to take back the five auto mechanics it fired, suspend them and hold an inquiry into the incident. The workers however are insisting that they will not work with the superintendent.

A news release yesterday from the Ministry of Labour stated:

"In discussions with the Union officers, the Minister reminded them that the industrial action being taken by the workers is unlawful in accordance with the Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act.

"He has also reiterated that the workers' refusal to comply with the Tribunal's order is also in breach of the Act and is in fact detrimental to the mechanism for maintaining industrial peace and harmony which has been established by trade unions over many years. The Minister has therefore called on the Unions to use their best efforts to effect a work resumption in keeping with the Tribunal's ruling.

"The Minister appeals to the workers that in their interest and in the public interest, proper industrial relations practices be adhered to, that is, resumption of work in order that the matters surrounding the dispute may be properly dealt with by the Tribunal."

At press time last night the Prime Minister was meeting with representatives of the unions and the company at Jamaica House and the hope was that, with his intervention, a settlement of the dispute may be near.

CSO: 3298/116

SECOND QUARTER TRADE DEFICIT REPORTED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] The 302 million trade deficit--the difference in value between exports and imports--for the second quarter of 1982 [as published] was the largest second quarter trade deficit that has ever occurred.

<u>J\$ Million</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>		<u>Second Quarter</u>	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>
Imports	605	529	654	605
Exports	264	291	352	388
Trade deficit	341	239	302	217

The value of goods exported from the country in each of the first two quarters of 1983 has been less than the corresponding amounts for 1982.

Exports earnings from visible trade are 10 percent less in the first half of 1983 than in 1982.

At current levels, Jamaica is importing approximately \$3.5 million a day more than it exports.

Note: Could the BOJ tell the public why they (or the Department of Statistics) have revised the Import and Export Statistics for the 1983 first quarter? Between the July and August Statistical Digest the relevant value of imports fell \$18 million and exports fell \$4 million. The happy result of this change--a trade deficit of \$341 million and not \$355 million as shown in July.

CSO: 3298/116

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES ECONOMIC SITUATION, C. AMERICA

PA020435 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Oct 83 pp 6, 7

["Stenograph report" of press conference granted by President Miguel de la Madrid to the Presidency press pool during a breakfast at Carranza Hall, Los Pinos Presidential Palace, on 5 October]

[Excerpts] Roberto Noriega, EL SOL DE MEXICO: Mr President, as you have said before, the crisis is far from over. More time is needed. In this context, do you think the steps taken thus far by your administration, although others are sure to come, have accomplished their objectives? And based on this, do you think your government, supported by the people--who have proven their nationalism and responsibility--can continue facing the crisis as it has pledged and overcome it without risking national divisions and social upheavals which some--at home and abroad--would like to see happen?

De la Madrid: I believe that the serious economic crisis we have been experiencing since 1982 is so very complex and vast that we are still far from solving it. The accomplishments of my first 10 months in office, in this regard, can be basically summarized by noting that we have prevented the extremely high inflation rate of December 1982 and January 1983--when the cost of living rose more than 10 percent--from continuing to rise, as could have been expected if the steps taken by the government to halt it had not been undertaken.

Francisco Ramirez, EL NACIONAL: Mr President, it is obvious that the steps taken by your administration to prevent serious consequences of the crisis have already had their effect in the first 10 months of your term. This being the case, the Mexican people are curious as to when they might relax a bit.

And after 10 months in office, Sir, which problems concern you the most and what can Mexicans expect on a short-term basis?

De la Madrid: When I took office on 1 December 1982 I stated that we would need at least 2 years to solve the most pressing problems of the economic crisis. I still think that my first 2 years in office will be the most difficult, will post the greater challenges, and will enable us to say that we have solved the crisis. [sentence as published] I believe that 1984 will be a difficult year, though less difficult than 1983.

However, as I have said before, I am not implying that we can lower our guard. On the contrary, I think we should work harder because the crisis, like any serious illness, tends to be more dangerous during relapses.

The first thing we should do is to prevent a regression to the intensity, complexity, and harshness of the 1982 economic crisis. We must insist--as I said when I replied to the first question--on fighting inflation, because without controlling inflation we cannot hope for sustained growth. We must control inflation at our current level, which curbs economic growth, but at the same time we must set as our goal a gradual economic recovery to begin by 1984.

We cannot expect high growth levels at this stage in a crisis year. But we can expect that the economy will stop shrinking and will gradually and steadily begin to grow.

I am fully aware of the troubles and the suffering the Mexican people have undergone in this period of inflation. Our standard of living has deteriorated. This is what the crisis is all about. Our standard of living is dropping, firms are not working at full capacity, and we are not creating sufficient jobs to meet the supply of new workers entering the labor force.

An improvement in our trade balance has been achieved, mostly with a drastic cut in imports instead of with an increase in exports and tourism. This cannot be sustained much longer. It has been acceptable as a first attempt to improve the situation, and as such it has been reasonable, necessary, and inescapable. But we should try to balance our trade situation mainly by increasing the nation's export capacity in both goods and services, because we will no longer be able to depend on the massive foreign credit we had in past years. International financing institutions are not permitting this, and in addition it is not good to continue acquiring debts at the same pace as in the past, because this taxes our foreign exchange reserves and leaves us very little room to maneuver the public budgets.

I hope that after this long, intense, and bitter 2-year battle we may enter a stage of gradual but steady and sustained recovery, and that we may be able, at the same time, to act on the core problems, or structural problems, as they are called, to ensure that a similar crisis will never recur in the future.

My responsibility lies not only in solving the crisis and recovering the capacity for growth during my term in office, but also in laying healthy and firm foundations for the future of Mexico.

Jesus Saldana, EL HERALDO DE MEXICO: Mr President, in a mixed economy system such as ours, in which the participation of private enterprise is fundamental to the nation's healthy development, and based on your statements regarding our economic difficulties, what do you consider the rights and obligations of this sector--private enterprise--at this time to help face the current hardships and prevent greater risks and imbalances in the face of inflation?

De la Madrid: I believe that those who have the responsibility of directing any enterprise, or enterprise owners, must consider that according to our social and economic system, the enterprise should not be considered a private

or personal interest. Based on the relation of the production factors, the enterprise has great social responsibilities: to its workers, first of all, to the clients it serves with goods or services; and, of course, to the nation.

At this moment, the businessmen have the primary obligation of maintaining sources of production and employment. They must organize themselves to this end--in fact, they have already organized themselves--to adopt various business administration procedures.

I believe the business sector is presently facing an enormous challenge in terms of efficiency and productivity; this does not depend only on one of the production factors, but on the actual conjunction of these factors.

Victor Aviles, UNOMASUNO: Mr President, concerning Central America, what have been the results of Mexico's efforts to establish communication between the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua and the Government of the United States? Likewise, what actions will be taken so that the Contadora Group does not become merely a retaining all against war in Central America, but achieves specific measures so that the five Central American countries achieve peace among themselves?

De la Madrid: The Contadora Group's meeting at the foreign ministerial level in early September resulted in a document of specific objectives. As of yesterday, it is unanimously supported not only by the Contadora Group countries, but also by the Central American countries as well.

I am highly pleased that the governments of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica--at the level of heads of state--yesterday accepted in its entirety the document prepared by the Contadora foreign ministers in early September.

Tomorrow the Contadora Group foreign ministers will report this advance to the UN secretary general; we will also publish, in Mexico, the complete document which has been unanimously agreed to by the Central American countries.

This document of objectives is a specific guide for negotiations and agreements between the countries; in our opinion, peace in Central America will be achieved only if the Central American countries state their willingness to negotiate for peace in an honorable, dignified and firm way. This is the goal sought by the Contadora Group, comprised of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. However, we also need a prolonged patient, and firm negotiating effort. It has been satisfactory to curb a generalized war, but our real goal is to establish the bases for a durable peace, based on our principles of international relations: respect for the sovereignty of other states, a peaceful solution to conflicts, and international cooperation.

First we must achieve a cease-fire. However, we must also attain pledge by all the countries not to intervene in other countries' internal affairs and not to allow the use of their territories to launch attacks against others, and, our final objective, establish effective mechanisms among the Central American

countries for economic cooperation. Likewise, these mechanisms must also be supported by the other Latin American countries and the rest of the world. The Central American conflict is, basically, the product of economic and social underdevelopment, grave social conditions, and social injustice. If these basic problems are not attacked, the conflict will sooner or later arise again at the domestic or international level.

Miguel Angel Ramirez, EL DIA: Mr President, in view of the worsening of the cold war that is being orchestrated by the world powers, what alternative would you propose to avoid a nuclear holocaust, which would definitively end human life, and what is your diagnosis of the international situation?

De la Madrid: I believe the only way to avoid the risk of war is through political negotiation. Thus, Mexico, in the past and at present, maintains an active presence in the UN specialized organizations to advocate international agreements concerning arms limitation. Mexico will continue to maintain the belief that only through arms limitation will we be able to diminish the risk of a war which, as you have pointed out, would be the end of mankind, since there would be no one left to fight.

We will continue participating in all the UN organizations to advocate international arms limitation. Mexico believes that the arms talks would also result in an important improvement in the international economic situation. There is no doubt that the vast resources which several nations allocate to increasing their arsenal might be redirected to international cooperation programs for development. Most of the problems of hunger and unsanitary conditions that afflict many countries in the world would be solved through this formula.

Peace is a vital need for all men and all nations. It is particularly important for nations which, like Mexico, have never aspired to become military powers—even less so considering the present state of modern technology.

CSO: 3248/120

PROTESTING CHIAPAS PEASANTS END CAPITAL DEMONSTRATION

PA211801 Paris AFP in Spanish 1437 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Oct (AFP)--Mexican peasants who walked 1,500 km to present their demands to the government agreed early today to end the sit-down protest that they had been staging for the past 3 days in front of the National Palace, having reached an agreement with the Agrarian Reform Secretariat.

The 563 peasants, representatives of 32 basically Indian communities, walked for 23 days from their state, Chiapas, in southwest Mexico to the capital, claiming that local authorities refused to listen to them.

After 6 hours of talks with Agrarian Reform Secretary Luis Martínez, the peasants were promised that those who are affected by the construction of a hydroelectric plant will be reimbursed for their land and relocated. They were also told that 43 agrarian disputes will be solved, their debts will be erased, and they will be given credit to take care of two areas that are affected by disease.

In response to a peasant charge that rural workers are being repressed in Chiapas, the authorities promised that they will review the cases that, according to the demonstrating group, include 500 arrest warrants issued against its members.

Aside from formal agreements, the Mexican Government promised, through various offices, to study the release of arrested peasants and to review the Labor Secretariat's decision to refuse permission for the registration of the Chiapas Rural Workers Union.

CSO: 3248/120

DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AID GIVEN

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 7 Oct 83 p 2

[Report: "Fixed Amount Proposed for Aid to Antilles "]

[Text] The Hague-7Oct--Minister De Koning (Netherlands Antilles Affairs) has proposed to the government of the Antilles that the amount of development aid for the Antilles be set at 5 percent of the total Dutch budget for development cooperation.

The advantage of that is that one doesn't have to look into the need of the Antilles every year. A disadvantage could be that the amount varies with the level of the net national income of the Netherlands since the level of development aid is set at 1.5 percent of our national income.

Currently the Antilles is getting about 245 million guilders in aid. If the Antilles agrees with De Koning's proposal, next year an additional amount of 25 million will become available which De Koning wants to spend for the establishment of a buffer fund for the small islands. From this one can pay for urgent projects which cannot be financed from the running program.

De Koning announced this yesterday to the permanent chamber commission for the Antilles. He also said that the Antilles have asked for a new contribution of over 12 million Dutch guilders in the equity capital of the distressed Curacao Dock Company. De Koning is favorable toward that but first wants to await the rescue plan which is currently in the making. The costs of the Dock Company are among the highest in the world: 150 guilders per man hour. In the Netherlands it is half that amount. A repair order brings in about 65 guilders per man hour, so that the Dock Company suffers great losses. The Netherlands, the island of Curacao and the Antillean Government have each taken 5 million guilders of that for their accounts. The Dock Company once was partly the property of RSV. Its shares were transferred to Curacao some time ago in order not to. [as published]

De Koning further promised the chamber commission to deliberate again on the new hospital in St. Eustatius which has already cost 2 million but which structurally is in such bad condition that it cannot be put in use yet. Finishing it would cost another 800,000 guilders.

The Antilleans always were in favor of continuing the project, but this week De Koning received a letter from the Antillean department of public health in which halting of the project is urged. Even if the hospital can be put into a reasonable condition, running it is considered to be too expensive for the island.

St. Eustatius, where 1400 people live and where one Dutch physician works, would at most need a clinic with 4 to 5 beds. PvdA [Labor Party] Member of the Chamber Jabaaij has been urging permanent stoppage of the construction for a long time already. In her view it would be better to fix up the current hospital.

8700

CSO: 3214/101

'SUCCESSFUL' PROTEST AGAINST 'REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS'

PA270157 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Oct 83 p 1-A

[By Jose Quintero, Vladimir Sandoval, Alfonso Barria, and Jose Montero]

[Excerpts] The deafening noise caused by the honking of car horns, the banging of pots and pans, and shouts of "enough" and "death to the dictatorship," together with a blackout that darkened many neighborhoods, shook the capital last night. For more than 15 minutes, the second civic protest--organized by all the opposition parties--was conducted to repudiate the so-called "revolutionary process" that has guided the country for the past 15 years.

According to observers sent by LA PRENSA to survey the situation on the outskirts of the city, the protest was a success. Most residents turned off the lights in their homes at 2000 and banged pots and pans as a means of rejecting the 15 years of military government in our country. In contrast to the first protest, no patrol cars or motorcycles intervened this time, although a group of riot police were involved in an incident that ended without any serious consequences.

Following the protest, the opposition parties organized a motorcade that began at El Dorado shopping mall, continued through the city's streets, and ended at the offices of LA PRENSA. The caravan proceeded peacefully until it approached the branch of the National Savings Bank on Central Avenue. At that point, members of the riot squad--the National Guard's Dobermans--coming back after protecting the U.S. Embassy, intercepted several cars displaying flags from the Christian Democratic Party and destroyed the lead motorcycle of the group of Christian Democrats participating in the event.

Leftist Groups Attack

At Santa Ana Park, groups of ultra-leftists, including members of the Revolutionary Student Front (FER), the Guaykucho Nir, and the Workers Socialist Party who had been picketing at the U.S. Embassy in protest of the invasion of Grenada, attacked a number of cars that were part of the motorcade.

According to eyewitnesses, several demonstrators were beaten up and others were slightly injured when their car windows were broken.

The motorcade was stopped by the National Guard on 5th Street--Catedral-- as it headed toward the Presidential Palace. The National Guard posted armed troopers at both entrances to the Presidential Palace.

The leaders ended the protest by expressing their appreciation of the support given to this demonstration. They then asked the participants to return to their homes in an orderly manner and announced a third protest to be held in the near future.

CSO: 3248/129

PEASANTS PROTEST PLANS TO INDEMNIFY U.S. FIRMS

PA220027 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Oct 83 p B-11

[Communique issued by the National Confederation of Peasant Settlements; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The National Confederation of Peasant Settlements (CONAC) wishes to lodge a very strong protest against the measures that the national government is adopting to give compensation to the Panama Boston Company. Since its installation in Mariato, Veraguas Province, this company has become the scourge of the area's peasants, which prompted the peasants to organize and begin a struggle to avoid being expelled from their native lands, and to demand that the government settle their problems with the Panama Boston Company. It is also known that this company did not pay taxes to the national treasury for which reason its 154,639 hectares and 9,250 square meters of land was taken over by the national government on 29 October 1969, following an action for duress [juicio de jurisdiccion coactiva] instituted by the Finance and Treasury Ministry.

However, a large sector of the government, the U.S. Embassy, and some lawyers who have lent their services for these purposes, despite their well-known nationalistic record, are insisting on paying an astronomical \$3 million in compensation to the company. Logically, the U.S. Embassy is here not only to force the payment to Panama Boston Company but also a payment to Citricos de Chiriqui, and to see that the lands that will revert to Panama under the Torrijos-Carter treaties be turned over to the transnational companies. In other words, the intention is to subject the entire country to Washington's dictates in order to demonstrate that the mission of the U.S. Embassy has been accomplished. Its mission is to do away once and for all with the revolutionary process that was led by General Torrijos and all it meant to the Panamanian people, but most particularly to the peasants.

For the CONAC Executive Committee:

Julio Bermudes, secretary general

Manuel M. Gutierrez, finance and administration secretary

Jose Isabel Rojas, organization secretary

Harmondio Diaz, assistant secretary general

CSO: 3248/219

OPPOSITION PARTIES DEMAND PURGE OF ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

PA211803 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Oct 83 p 1-A

[Excerpts] Authorized spokesmen for the opposition Popular Action Party (PAPO), Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA) have told LA PRENSA that their parties demand a thorough purge of the Electoral Tribunal, claiming that this is the only way to give credibility to the tribunal and to the results of the coming elections. The parties raised the demand after learning that Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero and Magistrate Yolanda Pulice Magistrate Rolando Murgas Torraza during the latter's 2-day trip abroad.

The parties noted that Llaurado was the Electoral Tribunal's director of electoral organization during the party registration period in 1981, when over 50,000 fraudulent enrollments were entered on the books of the Panamenist Party, led by Alonso Pinson and Luis Gaspar Suarez.

Sources close to the Electoral Tribunal have informed the PAPO, PDC, and MOLIRENA that steps have already begun, 2 days following Murgans' replacement by Llaurado, to force the resignation of Electoral Organization Director Hernando Franco and System Director Gordon. The parties claim that these steps are intended to gain control of the tribunal's administrative mechanisms so that the elections can be rigged.

The parties note that these actions contradict the promises of electoral impartiality made repeatedly by the magistrates and the president of the republic and they therefore demand an overall purge of the Electoral Tribunal as the only means to guarantee that the people will be able to believe in the election results.

CSO: 3248/129

PEASANTS CHARGE MARXIST INFLUENCE AMONG INDIANS

PA212359 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Oct 83 p 8-A

[Article by Vladimir Sandoval]

[Text] Peasant leaders from the provinces of Chiriqui, Veraguas, and Bocas del Toro yesterday reported interference by individuals with Marxist inclinations in the Guaymí People's just struggle for the delimitation of their district. These individuals are seeking an open confrontation between peasants and Indians.

Early yesterday, peasants Trinidad Camano and Prudencio Gonzalez visited our offices to denounce the open intervention of groups and parties of Marxist tendencies in the Guaymí Indians' struggle, for the purpose of achieving their objectives by deceiving the Indians.

Camano and Gonzalez added that the law creating the regulations for the delimitation of the Guaymí District, which was submitted to the National Legislation Council, was drafted by the Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Guaymí People, the Panamanian Agrarian Movement, and the Workers Socialist Party, all of which have clear leftist inclinations. They are intervening with the approval of several Indian leaders who are being advised by foreigners.

The two peasant leaders also said the law establishes regulations that are contrary to our customs. Included among them are: the ban on the practice of the Catholic religion within the district, the creation of an independent government, and the specification that the Indian population should be educated by teachers from the capital or the provinces.

The two peasants said that 30 percent of the Indians are opposed to staying within the delimited area because this measure would bring changes in their lifestyles and laws that they are not familiar with. This opposition is also being voiced by numerous peasants whose lands will become part of the Guaymí District if the delimitation is implemented as it has been submitted to the Legislation Council.

Camano and Gonzalez said in conclusion: "The communists want an Indian district, but don't want to solve the Indians' problems, because they are not seeking an authentic democracy, health centers, education, or the eradication of malnutrition among the Indians."

CSO: 3248/129

BRIEFS

U.S., SPANISH PRIESTS ARRESTED--Panama City, 19 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Three priests, two from the United States and one from Spain, were arrested and interrogated for 1 hour today by state security officials. The incident was reported to ACAN-EFE by one of the arrested priests, Diego Claffey. The three priests took part in this afternoon's demonstration, held at the Legislative Palace, marking the end of an 8-day, 250 km walk by more than 100 Guaymi Indians. The marchers were demanding that the government pass a law granting them their own region. According to statements made by Diego Claffey, he and one other U.S. citizens, Jose Cumins, were taken, together with Spanish citizen Santiago Najarro, to the state security headquarters and interrogated. According to Claffey, he and Cumins were arrested because they were "foreigners," but once the officials discovered they were priests, "they became very concerned." Claffey added that following the interrogation, an official "gave us a sermon" and told them that as foreigners and priests, they should not participate in the Indian demonstration. Claffey pointed out that no one was verbally or physically mistreated. The two U.S. priests belong to the Order of Saint Vincent de Paul, while Najarro is a diocesan priest. [Text] [PA200425 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0255 GMT 20 Oct 83]

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS REELECTED--Lorenzo Sotero Alfonso Govea and Heriberto Bernal have been reelected president and vice president, respectively, of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives. [Summary] [PA241811 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Oct 83 p 8]

NEW IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR--Raul Esteban Roger, the new immigration director, was sworn in today before Government and Justice Minister Justo Fidel Palacios and Deputy Minister Jorge Lee. Roger replaces Major Pacifico Saavedra, retired. [Excerpt] [PA161510 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Oct 83]

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY REGISTERED--The Panamanian Electoral Tribunal has recognized the Workers Revolutionary Party [Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores, PRT], which has registered 31,059 members, and has ordered the PRT's entry into the country's Parties Registry. The PRT is led by President and legal representative Graciela J. Dixon and by Secretary General Dr Egbert N. Wetherborne. [Summary] [PA092314 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Oct 83 p 5A]

FREE EXPORT OF CATTLE AUTHORIZED--Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella has authorized the free export of cattle. Without affecting the domestic supply of beef, this measure could produce more than \$20 million in foreign exchange for the country. The U.S., Peruvian, Venezuelan, and Caribbean markets are all interested in Panamanian cattle. [Summary] [Panama City YA in Spanish 27 Sep 83 pp 1, 19 PA]

BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH SWISS--On 19 October Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega and Swiss Charge d'Affaires Rene Rode signed a bilateral agreement for the promotion and protection of investments. The purpose of the agreement is to promote private and government investments between the two nations and to foster mutual cooperation in the areas of technology, industry and productivity. [Summary] [PA221314 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Oct 83 p 10-A]

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH UK--British Ambassador to Panama Terence Steggle and Panamanian Commerce and Industries Minister Carlos Hoffman have signed an agreement aimed at facilitating British investments in Panama through the installation of manufacturing plants for products to be used both here and in neighboring countries. The agreement was signed on 7 October. [Summary] [PA131309 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Oct 83 p 40]

CSO: 3248/129

OPPOSITION, CENAC OBJECT TO DECISION ON CIVIL SERVANTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Oct 83 p 5

[Text] Castries, Oct 12 (CANA)--St. Lucia's Opposition Leader, Neville Cenac has called for an urgent meeting with Prime Minister John Compton--within the next seven days--to discuss a controversial Cabinet decision to debar senior civil servants from holding leadership positions in trade unions.

The move is linked to a souring of relations between the hierarchy of the Civil Service Association and the Compton administration over union demands for wages increases for public servants, in the face of repeated assertions by Government that the country could not now afford to pay new salaries.

The association has been holding regular meetings at which executive members have accused the Government of trying to break the back of the body with the introduction of the new staff order. The CSA will meet in emergency session today to consider what action will be taken.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, Cenac, leader of the St. Lucia Labour Party, said the meeting was to discuss "Cabinet's recently approved new staff order that prohibits public officers from holding leadership positions in trade unions and associations functioning as general trade unions."

The letter states: "I am particularly concerned that this staff order has been made while negotiations with these unions are in progress, a time you will agree, when goodwill and understanding by the parties are especially needed to conclude an amicable settlement."

Cenac said the decision contravenes not only the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Convention of freedom of association, but also section 11 of the St. Lucia constitution, which guarantees freedom of association.

The letter requested that a meeting be held within the next seven days, and that in the meantime the regulation be suspended to facilitate an atmosphere of cordiality.

The association at a recent General Council meeting endorsed a resolution placing full confidence in the present executive and leadership of the association.

The Council denounced any attempt by Government to unseat the present leadership, declaring further that the association will not abide by staff orders if the amendment or any other unilaterally decided by Government is included.

A CSA statement said that this action "is specially important because the Government's decision is in keeping with the warnings of the CSA that attempts would have been made to break that organisation."

It described the Government's move as irregular and one that brings into question the longstanding integrity of the Civil Service Association.

The statement added: "The Cabinet decision alluded to, comes at a time when the civil service association is locked in negotiations with Government and is seen as a way to bias the outcome of negotiations."

CSO: 3298/117

- END -

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

23 Nov. 1983
